

January 3, 2012

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: 

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular Commission Meeting will be held at **9:30 AM on Thursday, January 5, 2012**, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2011
3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
5. To hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/December
6. To hear General Information on Upcoming Notices of Intent for the 2012-2013 Hunting Seasons
8. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Commercial Reef Fish Seasons
9. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Recreational Reef Fish Seasons
10. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Commercial King Mackerel Season
11. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency – Closure of the Recreational Fishery for Gag Grouper in Louisiana Waters
12. To consider Declaration of Emergency on Fisheries Closures due to Oil Spill
13. To consider Notice of Intent to Establish Procedures for a Vessel Monitoring System to be used by Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permittees
14. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
15. Set May 2012 Meeting Date
16. Receive Public Comments
17. Adjournment

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
January 5, 2011
9:30 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2011
3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
5. To hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/December
6. To hear General Information on Upcoming Notices of Intent for the 2012-2013 Hunting Seasons – Kenny Ribbeck
8. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Commercial Reef Fish Seasons – Jason Adriance
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13. To consider Notice of Intent to Establish Procedures for a Vessel Monitoring System to be used by Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permittees – Jason Froeba
14. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
15. Set May 2012 Meeting Date
16. Receive Public Comments
17. Adjournment



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

ROBERT BARHAM
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

December 19, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Barham", written over a circular stamp.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: Robert J. Barham, Secretary
SUBJECT: January Commission Meeting Agenda

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The following items will be discussed:

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OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

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OFFICE OF FISHERIES

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16. Receive Public Comments
17. Adjournment

c: Lois Azzarello
Jimmy Anthony
Randy Pausina
Cathy Lockett
Bo Boehringer
Don Puckett
Robert Arnold
Division Administrators
Marianne Burke
Stephanie Blanchard

McCoy, Laura

From: Stephen Sagrera <swsagrera@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 7:44 PM
To: McCoy, Laura
Subject: RE: January Commission Meeting Agenda

Looks fine!

Subject: RE: January Commission Meeting Agenda
Date: Thu, 15 Dec 2011 08:04:53 -0600
From: lmccoy@wlf.la.gov
To: swsagrera@hotmail.com

Mr. Sagrera,

Looking back at the meeting from last year it was done right before setting the May meeting date. I've added it, please let me know if it looks ok.

Thank you,
Laura

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2. Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2011
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OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

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16. Receive Public Comments
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Laura McCoy
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Dr., Rm 458
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 765-2806
lmccoy@wlf.la.gov

From: Stephen Sagrera [<mailto:swsagrera@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 9:59 PM
To: McCoy, Laura
Subject: RE: January Commission Meeting Agenda

Thanks Laura,
We will need to add the election of chair and vice chair. I think it should be just before public comments but check with Don on that.

Stephen

Subject: January Commission Meeting Agenda
Date: Wed, 14 Dec 2011 14:08:59 -0600
From: lmccoy@wlf.la.gov
To: swsagrera@hotmail.com

Mr. Sagrera,

Please review the agenda items below for the January 5 Commission Meeting. Please let me know if you have any changes or if you approve.

Thank you,
Laura McCoy

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2011
3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege

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Laura McCoy
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GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

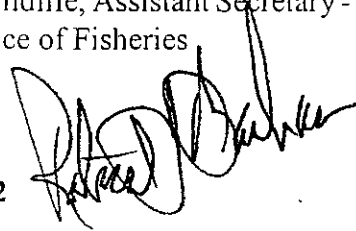
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

November 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary - Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary - Office of Fisheries and Deputy Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: Robert J. Barham, Secretary 

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - January 5, 2012

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Laura McCoy by Thursday, December 15th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, January 5th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on January 5th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo.

Thank you for your cooperation!

ljm

c: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Kenny Ribbeck ✓
Bob Love
Joey Shepard
Marianne Burke
Bo Boehringer

*1. General information on upcoming
NOI's for 2012-13 Hunting Seasons.
by Kenny Ribbeck*

OFFICE OF FISHERIES - JANUARY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

1. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Commercial Reef Fish Seasons – Jason Adriance
2. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Recreational Reef Fish Seasons– Jason Adriance
3. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Commercial King Mackerel Season– Jason Adriance
4. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency – Closure of the Recreational Fishery for Gag Grouper in Louisiana Waters – Yet to be determined
5. To consider Declaration of Emergency on Fisheries Closures due to Oil Spill – Martin Bourgeois
6. To consider Notice of Intent to Establish Procedures for a Vessel Monitoring System to be used by Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permittees – Jason Froeba



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GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

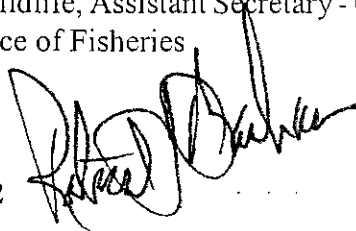
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Joey Shepard
Marianne Burke ✓
Bo Boehringer

*Nothing for Public Information
Office.
Haworth
12-2-11*



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State of Louisiana

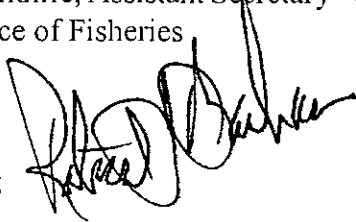
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Bo Boehringer ✓

No items to add!
B. Boehringer



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State of Louisiana

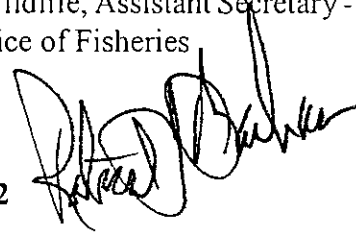
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nothing for Jan - Loui



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ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
December 2011

206 Amphibian – N90322 25.7 Hours

206 Amphibian – N5235C 51.2 Hours

210 N9467Y 20.0 Hours

DIVISION	FLIGHT HOURS
Enforcement	19.3
Wildlife	37.4
Marine Fish	5.8
Inland Fish	
Coastal & Non-Game Resources	31.9
Office of the Secretary	
Other State Agencies	2.5
Other Entities	
TOTAL HOURS USED	96.9

Franklin Man Pleads Guilty to Alligator Violations

A Franklin man pleaded guilty on Dec. 7 in the Lafayette Division of the Western District Federal Court of Louisiana to alligator charges.

Federal Magistrate Michael Hill sentenced Daniel A. Edgar, 62, to pay a \$2,000 fine for pleading guilty to taking alligators from an unapproved area.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division agents cited Edgar on Sept. 7, 2006 in Iberia and St. Martin parishes for running alligator lines set in areas in the Atchafalaya Basin. Edgar did not have alligator tags for where his alligator lines were set.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Luke Walker prosecuted the case. LDWF agents participating in the case were Sgt. James Rhodes, Sgt. Ronald Hebert, Senior Agent Donnie Bozeman and Senior Agent Jerry Stassi.

For more information, contact Adam Einck at 225-765-2465 or aeinck@wlf.la.gov.

Terrebonne Parish Man Cited for Filing False Boat Registration

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division agents cited a Houma man for alleged boat registration violations in East Baton Rouge Parish on Dec. 6, 2011.

LDWF Strike Force and Undercover agents cited Chad Sagona, 36, for possessing a motorboat with an altered hull identification number and an outboard motor with altered serial number. Agents also cited Sagona for injuring and filing false public records for his attempt to illegally register a boat.

Undercover agents answered an Internet classified ad in reference to a subject wanting to purchase a Louisiana boat registration for a vessel that could not receive a legal registration. Undercover agents made contact with Sagona and sold him a false registration.

Sagona allegedly registered the vessel in his name with the false registration. Agents seized the vessel along with a Yamaha outboard motor and boat trailer.

Filing false and injuring public records brings up to five years in jail and up to \$5,000 in fines for each offense. If found guilty of altering a hull identification number and outboard serial number, Sagona faces a \$50 fine for each charge and forfeiture of his boat and motor.

Agents involved in the case were Lt. Joseph Arnaud, Agent Jake Darden and LDWF undercover agents.

For more information, contact Adam Einck at aeinck@wlf.la.gov.

New Iberia Man Sentenced for Taking Louisiana Black Bear

A New Iberia man was sentenced in Federal Western District Court in Lafayette on Dec. 21 for illegally killing a Louisiana black bear.

Federal Judge Patrick J. Hanna sentenced Cory R. Ronsonet, 39, to three years of supervised probation, three years of no hunting privileges, a \$3,000 fine and 300 hours of community service. If the fine is paid and community service completed within six weeks, then the probation will be reduced to unsupervised.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division agents initiated the investigation during the 2008-09 hunting season after receiving a public tip that a black bear had been shot then skinned and stored in a fashion to mount it in the future. Agents then found a black bear skin and its decapitated head on May 19, 2011 off of Daniel Lane near a subdivision in New Iberia.

During the investigation, Ronsonet admitted to LDWF Enforcement Division agents on May 31, 2011 of taking the black bear in question. Ronsonet pleaded guilty for violating the federal endangered species act for illegally taking a black bear in Federal Western District Court in Lafayette on Aug. 17.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joe Mickel and Howard Parker prosecuted the case. LDWF Senior Agent David Boudreaux was the lead investigator on the case and was assisted by Sgts. James Rhodes, Mitch Darby, Brian Theriot and Senior Agent Jason Romero. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Phillip Siragusa also assisted with the investigation.

The bear had been a part of LDWF's black bear program and was first tagged in 2000 when it was estimated to be six years old. The passive integrated transponder implanted during the initial capture was left in the hide when the bear was skinned and provided positive identification. LDWF had never received a nuisance call about this older male bear that lived mostly in the Weeks Island area of lower Iberia Parish.

The Louisiana black bear has been listed on the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species List since 1992. Citizens are reminded that killing a Louisiana black bear is a violation of both state law and the federal Endangered Species Act.

For more information, contact Adam Einck at 225-765-2465 or aeinck@wlf.la.gov.

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

DECEMBER 2011

REGION 1: MINDEN**PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
WEBSTER, RED RIVER,
DESOTO**

TOTAL CASES	183
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
7	Hunt/Take Deer Illegal Hours
2	Hunt/Take Deer Closed Season
8	Hunt from Moving Vehicle
6	Possession of Illegally Taken Deer
3	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods
1	Take Nongame Quadruped Illegally
1	Take Nongame Quadruped Closed Season
11	Hunt w/o Resident License
9	Hunt w/o Resident Big Game License
20	Fail to Comply w/Deer Tagging Regulations
9	Fail to Wear Hunters Orange
4	Hunt w/o Non-Resident License
4	Hunt w/o Non-Resident Big Game License
1	Possession of Fur Bearing Animal w/o License
1	Fail to Maintain Sex Identification
1	Take Fox Illegally

5	Hunt Migratory Game Birds w/o State Stamp
2	Take O/L Ducks
2	Simple Littering
1	Gross Littering
3	Angle w/o License Non-Resident
4	Angle w/o Resident License
2	Possession of Schedule 1 Narcotic
2	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
1	No Passing Zone
1	Illegal Carrying of a Weapon
1	Operate ATV Public Road
1	Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon
1	Resisting an Officer
2	Conspiracy to Commit Obstruction of Justice
2	Obstruction of Justice
1	False Swearing
1	Possession of Alcohol by Person Under 21
1	Fail to Comply w/PFD Requirements
2	Fail to have PFD on person under 17
2	Fail to Comply w/PFD Requirements Class A Tiller

1	Violate Interstate Commerce Regulations
1	Violate Commission Rules/Regs
2	Hunt w/o WMA Hunt Permit
3	Obtain License by Fraud
1	Take Deer w/Illegal Weapon
4	Take Deer from a Public Road
29	Violate WMA Rules/Regs
3	Discharge Firearm from a Public Road
2	Illegal Spotlighting from a Public Road
5	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours
3	Hunt From a Public Road
1	Hunt Raccoons Illegally
3	Hunt Ducks w/o Federal Stamp

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	42	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
13		Fail to Comply w/Deer Tagging Regulations
3		Fail to Wear Hunters Orange
1		Expired Boat Registration Certificate
4		Fail to Comply w/PFD Requirements

8	Violate WMA Rules/Regs
5	Use WMA w/o License or Stamp
3	Fail to Comply w/PFD Class A Tiller
2	Angle w/o license (Resident)
1	Fail to Comply w/Hunter Safety Requirements
1	Hunt Migratory Game Bird w/o State License
1	Hunt w/o Resident License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1- 17 cal. Rifle, 1- Winchester 30/30 rifle, 1- fox, 1- 9pt. buck head, 2- suspected bags of Marijuana, 1- smoking pipe, 1 resident license, 1- big game license, 10 – deer, 8- ducks

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
10	Federal Migratory

3	Littering
15	Miscellaneous
7	Recreational Fishing
143	State Hunt/Trapping
42	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Public Assistance (vehicle assists)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Bodcau WMA	35	13
Loggy Bayou WMA	1	0
Jackson Bienville WMA	1	1
Bayou Pierre WMA	0	0
Soda Lake WMA	0	0

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
1	1

REGION 2: MONROE**PARISHES: CALDWELL, E. CARROLL, FRANKLIN,
JACKSON, LINCOLN, MADISON, MOREHOUSE,
OUACHITA, RICHLAND, TENSAS, UNION, W. CARROLL,**

TOTAL CASES	226
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Angle w/o Non-Resident License
34	Boating Safety
1	Buy/Sell Fish w/o Retail Seafood License
2	Careless Operation Of A Vehicle
3	Discharge Firearm From A Public Road
1	Driving w/o License
22	Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Regulations
2	Fail To Comply w/Non-Toxic Shot Regulations
11	Fail To Wear Hunter's Orange
2	Hunt Across A Public Road
3	Hunt Deer From A Public Road
2	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
1	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods
1	Hunt Ducks Closed Season
1	Hunt Ducks w/o Federal Duck Stamp
9	Hunt From A Moving Vehicle

9	Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Hunt Permit
6	Hunt w/Unplugged Shotgun
6	Hunt w/o Basic License
1	Hunt w/o Non-Resident License
3	Hunt w/o Primitive Weapons License
7	Hunt w/o Resident Big Game License
3	Hunt w/o State Duck License
1	Hunt, Stand, Loiter, Public Road
1	Hunt/Trap On D-Map w/o Permit
1	Hunt MGB From Moving Vehicle
1	Litter-Gross
2	Litter-Intentional
3	Litter-Simple
2	No Recreational Gear License
46	Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs
1	Obtain License By Fraud
4	Open Container
3	Operate An ATV On A Public Road
3	Possess Live Quadrupeds w/o License
1	Possession Of Firearm By Convicted Felon

5	Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer
1	Possession Of Marijuana
1	Take Deer Illegally
2	Take Illegal Deer Open Season
1	Take O/L Deer
2	Take O/L Ducks
1	Take Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours
1	Transport Seafood w/o Transport License
4	Violate MGB's Treaty Act
6	Violate NWR Rules/Regs
2	Wanton Waste

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	83	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1		Fail To Comply w/Boating Ed Requirements
21		Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Regulations
1		Fail To Comply w/Hunter Safety Regulations
11		Fail To Comply w/PFD Regulations
7		Fail To Comply w/Tiller Handle Cutoff Regulations
1		Fail To Comply w/Tiller Handle PFD Regulations

1	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
2	Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Hunt Permit
2	Hunt w/o Resident License
1	Hunt w/o State Duck License
2	Improper Boat Numbers
1	Improper Running Lights
28	Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Overloading A Motorboat
2	Use WMA w/o License Or Stamp

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1-Skunk; 10-Wood Ducks; 1- Browning 270 Rifle w/T Scope; 4 – Buck Deer; 4- Doe Deer; 1 – Green Wing Teal; 24 – Ducks; 1 Set 7 Pt Antlers

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
34	Boating

2	Commercial Fishing
19	Federal Migratory
6	Littering
11	Miscellaneous
3	Recreational Fishing
151	State Hunt/Trapping
83	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
11	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Russell Sage WMA	39	34
Ouachita WMA	11	11
Jackson Bienville WMA	4	3
Union WMA	0	0
Boeuf WMA	13	7
Buckhorn WMA	11	1

Big Lake WMA	2	2
Bayou Macon WMA	1	0
Big Colewa WMA	0	0
Floyd McElroy WMA	0	0

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
0	0

REGION 3: ALEXANDRIA**PARISHES: AVOYELLES,
CATAHOULA, CONCORDIA, GRANT,
LASALLE, NATCHITOCHE,
RAPIDES, SABINE, VERNON, WINN**

TOTAL CASES	350
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
16	Boating
4	Angle w/o License
1	Angle w/o Non- Resident License
2	Possess O/L Freshwater Game Fish
1	Take Alligator Closed Season
8	Hunt w/o Resident License
2	Hunt w/o Resident Big Game License
1	Hunt w/o Bow License
1	Hunt w/o Primitive Weapon License
6	Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Permit
68	Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs
15	Not Abiding By Commission Rules/Regs
5	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
15	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods
12	Hunt From Moving Vehicle

9	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
19	Hunt Deer From Public Road
3	Hunt Deer On DMAP w/o Permission
6	Take O/L Deer
8	Possess Illegally Taken Deer
1	Tagging Another's Deer
5	Hunt Deer w/o Deer Tags
4	Discharge Firearm From Public Road
1	Hunt w/Unplugged Shotgun
10	Fail To Tag Deer
1	Hunt Raccoons Illegally
5	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours
8	Hunt MGB w/o MGB License
10	Hunt Ducks w/o Federal Stamp
5	Hunt MGB From Moving Motorboat
8	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
3	Take/Possess O/L Ducks
2	Take Geese Closed Season
7	Hunt Ducks Closed Season
4	Possess Lead Shot While Hunt Waterfowl

1	Possess Over 2 Day Limit Of MGB
5	Hunt MGB w/Unplugged Shotgun
2	Hunt MGB's w/Illegal Firearm
3	Violate MGB Tagging Requirements
3	Possession Of Firearm By Convicted Felon
1	Obliterate Serial Number
1	Misrepresentation During Issuance Of Misdemeanor
3	Operate ATV On Public Road
3	Criminal Trespass
2	Criminal Damage To State Property
1	Resisting An Officer
5	Possess Alcohol Under 21
1	Resist An Officer
1	Disturbing The Peace
1	Theft
2	DWI (Vehicle)
2	No Driver's License
1	Operate Unregistered Motor Vehicle
1	Stop Sign Violation
1	No Tail Lights

2	Careless Operation Of Vehicle
1	Driving Under Suspension
1	Public Intimidation
2	Possession Of Marijuana
3	Filing False Public Records
6	Possess Drug Paraphernalia
3	Possess CDS I
8	Open Container – Alcohol In Vehicle
6	Littering
2	Gross Littering

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	9	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1		Hunt Deer w/o Tags
1		Fail To Tag Deer
5		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs
1		Commission Rules/Regs (Hunter Orange Violation)
1		Hunt MGB w/o State MGB License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
13 Deer, 79 Ducks, 1 Driver's License, 1 Glass Jar Of CDS 1, 1 Goose, 1 Headlight, 587 Catfish, 3 Bags Of Marijuana, 5 Pipes, 1 ZigZag Papers, 3 Shotguns, 1 Rifle, 12 Leadshot Shells, ½ Gallon Of Whiskey, And 14 Cans Of Beer.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
16	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
58	Federal Migratory
8	Littering
55	Miscellaneous
8	Recreational Fishing
205	State Hunt/Trapping
9	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
9	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Acadiana Conservation Corridor	0	0
Alexander State Forest	4	0
Bocuf	0	0
Clear Creek	10	0
Camp Beauregard	6	0
Dewey Wills	47	5
Elbow Slough	0	0
Fort Polk	3	0
Grassy Lake	6	0
Little River	4	0
Peason Ridge	0	0
Pomme De Terre	4	0
Red River	3	1
Sabine	8	0
Sicily Island	0	0
Spring Bayou	3	0
Three Rivers	2	0
Walnut Hill	0	0

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
0	0

REGION 4: OPELOUSAS

**PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,
PT.COUPÉE, LAFAYETTE,
ST. LANDRY, ST. MARTIN,
W.B.R.**

TOTAL CASES	140
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
28	Boating
1	Possession Of Live Alligator
1	Fish w/o Resident Pole License
1	Fail To Comply w/Deer Harvest Record Requirements
27	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
4	Violate Migratory Bird Treaty Act – Closed Season
6	Hunt w/o Resident License
3	Fail To Abide By Commission Rules
7	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
4	Hunt Wild Game Quadruped Illegal Hours or w/Artificial Light
4	Hunt From A Public Road
2	Violate Migratory Treaty Act – No Federal Stamp In Possession
1	Violate Migratory Treaty Act – Possession Of Lead Shot
2	Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Permit
1	Negligent Injuring
3	Hunt From Moving Motorboat

3	Hunt w/Unplugged Gun
3	Hunt/Take Deer Illegal Hours or w/Artificial Light
2	Take Grebe – No Season
1	Take Spotted Fawn
7	Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging – Commission Rules/Regulations
1	Violate Migratory Treaty Act – Two Ducks Fully Dressed – No Head Or Wing
3	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Sell/Purchase Game Fish
4	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
1	Bow Hunt w/o Bow License
1	Angle w/o License
1	Intentional Littering
3	Hunt Ducks Closed Season
2	Hunt MGB w/o State Migratory License
2	Hunt Ducks w/o Federal Stamp
1	1st Offense Driving While Intoxicated
2	Careless Operation
6	Criminal Damage To State Property
1	Hunt MGB w/Unplugged Gun

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	41	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
16		Boating
1		Hunt w/o Bow License
1		Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
6		Not Abiding By Rules/Regs On WMA
1		Use WMA w/o License
13		Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Or Harvest Card Commission Rules/Regs
1		Fail To Comply w/Deer Harvest Record Requirements
1		Hunt MGB w/o State MGB License
1		Angle w/o License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 Deer, 1 Woodduck, 19 Coots, 1 Ruddy Duck, 2 Grebe, 1 White Perch, 1 Deer Tag, 2 Black Bass, 4 Alligators

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
28	Boating
1	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
39	Miscellaneous
5	Recreational Fishing
66	State Hunt/Trapping
41	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Sherburne WMA	30	9
Thistlethwaite WMA	9	0
Attakapas WMA	5	3
Acadiana Conservation Corridor	0	0

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
0	0

REGION 5: LAKE CHARLES**PARISHES: BEAUREGARD, CALCASIEU,
EVANGELINE, ALLEN,
CAMERON, ACADIA,
VERMILION, JEFF DAVIS**

TOTAL CASES	82
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
15	Boating
5	Angle w/o License
1	Angle w/o License – Non Resident
1	Take/Possess O/L Red Drum (On Water)
5	Hunt w/o Resident License
3	Hunt w/o Non Resident License
1	Hunt w/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
3	Hunt MGB w/o State MGB License
6	Hunt From Moving Vehicle/Aircraft
5	Hunt Wild Game Quadrupeds/Wild Game Birds Illegal Hours or w/Artificial Light - Deer
1	Hunt w/o Resident Big Game License
1	Hunt/Take Deer Illegal Hours Or w/Artificial Light
1	Hunt/Take Deer From Public Road
2	Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Or Harvest Record Commission Rules/Regs
1	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
1	Possess Live Non Game Quadrupeds w/o Permit

2	Violate MGB Treaty Act Miscellaneous
5	Hunt Ducks Or Geese w/o Federal Stamp
1	Hunt MGB w/Unplugged Gun
3	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
1	Transport Completely Dressed MGB No Wing Tip Left On
1	Possess Over The Two Day Limit MGB
1	Take/Possess O/L Geese (Field Possession)
1	Take/Possess O/L Ducks (Field Possession)
7	Violating National Wildlife Refuge Regulations
1	Not Abiding By Rules/Regs On WMA
4	Littering – Simple
2	Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road
1	Miscellaneous Federal Violations

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	16	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1		Angle w/o License
1		Angle w/o License – Non Resident
1		Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Or Harvest Record Commission Rules/Regs

2	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate
2	Fail To Comply w/PFD Requirements
3	Fail To Comply w/PFD Requirement Class A Tiller Outboard
1	Improper/No Fire Extinguisher
3	Fail To Comply w/Tiller Outboard Engine Cut Off Class A And 1

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 Raccoon RTW; 1 Rabbit Donated; 1 Goose Donated; 1 Canvasback Donated; 10 Ducks Donated; 2 Ducks Discarded; 24 Cleaned Duck Breasts Donated; 1 Red Drum Donated; 1 Deer Tag; Litter; 1-12 Ga. 3-1/2 00 Buckshot Shell

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
15	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
22	Federal Migratory
4	Littering
3	Miscellaneous

7	Recreational Fishing
30	State Hunt/Trapping
16	Written Warnings
1	Wildlife Management Area

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Rockefeller	0	0
West Bay	1	0
Sabine Island	0	0
Marsh Island	0	0
State Wildlife	0	0
White Lake Preserve	0	0
Marsh Bayou	0	0

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
0	0

REGION 6: SCHRIEVER

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION, ST. JAMES,
ST. JOHN, ST. MARY,
TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE,
JEFFERSON-GRAND ISLE,
LOWER ST. MARTIN**

TOTAL CASES	272
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
39	Boating
12	Angle w/o License
10	Angle w/o Non-Resident License
5	Angle w/o Saltwater License
13	Angle w/o Non-Resident Saltwater License
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
4	Take U/S Recreational Red Drum
1	Take U/S Recreational Black Drum
1	Take Commercial Fish w/o Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish w/o Vessel License
2	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data
38	Take Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)
4	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
1	Violate Oyster Seed Ground Permit Regulations
2	Violate Oyster Sanitary Code (Logbook)

5	Hunt w/o Resident License
3	Possess Wild Quadrupeds w/o License
5	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
7	Hunt w/Unplugged Gun
2	Possess Live Quadrupeds w/o Permit
2	Fail To Comply w/Hunter Safety Regulations
2	Hunt MGB w/o State MGB
1	Hunt w/o Resident Big Game License
5	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours w/Artificial Light
5	Hunt Deer From Public Road
1	Possess O/L Deer
2	Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Requirements
2	Hunt Raccoons Illegally
1	Illegal Possession Of Alligators
1	Possess FBA w/o License
6	Hunt Ducks w/o Federal Stamp
8	Hunt MGB w/Unplugged Gun
11	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
6	Hunt MGB From Moving Motorboat
4	Rallying MGB

2	Transport Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left On)
4	Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
1	Hunt Coots C/S
5	Possess O/L Of Coots (Field Possession)
1	Hunt Ducks C/S
1	Possess O/L Ducks (Field Possession)
1	Taking Herons - No Season
1	Taking Other Non-Game Birds-No Season (Greater Egret)
1	Taking Other Non-Game Birds-No Season (Cormorant)
10	Hunt MGB w/o State Hunt License
4	Criminal Trespass
5	Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road
5	Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Hunt WMA w/o Hunt Permit)
2	Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Hunt w/Firearm During Archery Only)
7	Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Organized Hunt)
1	Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (On WMA Prior To 4 A.M.)
5	Intentional Littering
1	Intentional Concealment Of Fish
1	Possession Of Alcohol By Person Under 21 Years Of Age

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	114	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
61		Boating
9		Angle w/o License
7		Angle w/o Saltwater License
1		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (No Firearms In Camp Area)
1		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Regulations)
14		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Organized Deer Drive On WMA)
3		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (No Hunter's Orange)
3		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Hunt WMA w/o Permit)
3		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Cutting Brush)
1		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Fail To Comply w/Engine Cut Off)
2		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Fail To Have Self-Clearing Permit)
1		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (Use Shotgun During Bow Season)
2		Not Abiding By WMA Rules/Regs (On WMA Prior To 4 A.M.)
1		Take Illegal Size Black Bass
2		Take U/S Recreational Black Drum
1		Take O/L Recreational Black Drum
2		Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Requirement

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
257 coots; 153 sacks oysters; 9 gadwalls; 25 teal, 2 shovelers; 4 redhead ducks; 6 speckled trout; 40 sheepshead; 10 red drum; 18 black drum; 2 bags mgb parts; 1 raccoon; 1 pintail duck; 2 deer; 1 spoonbill; 1 dogfish; 14 nutria tails; 2 canvasback; 1 greater egret; 1 heron; 3 alligator tails; 2 rabbits; 2 gallinules; 2 black bass; 11 vessels; 19 oyster dredges; 5 firearms; 1 pickup truck; 1 oyster logbook; 12 commercial sales receipts; 2/12v batteries w/spotlights; various lead shots

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
39	Boating
50	Commercial Fishing
1	Federal Migratory
5	Littering
5	Miscellaneous
47	Recreational Fishing
125	State Hunt/Trapping
114	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Atchafala Delta	9	9
Maurepas	4	24
Pointe Aux Chenes	2	0
Manchac	1	2
Attakapas	0	1
Elmer's Island	0	2
Elm Hall	0	1

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
2	2

REGION 7: BATON ROUGE**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E.B. ROUGE,
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON
ST. HELENA, ST. TAMMANY,
TANGIPAHOA, WASHINGTON,
W. FELICIANA**

TOTAL CASES	250
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
25	Boater Safety
14	Angle w/o License
2	Theft Of Crab Traps
1	Use Crab Traps w/o Required Markings
18	Hunt w/o Basic License
7	Hunt w/o Big Game License
7	Hunt w/o Non-Resident Basic License
7	Hunt w/o Non-Resident Big Game License
3	Hunt w/o MGB w/o State Stamp
1	Hunt w/o Primitive License
5	Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Permit
33	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
32	Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging Requirements
11	Hunt Deer From Public Road
9	Hunt Deer From Moving Vehicle

7	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
1	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods
1	Possess Illegally Taken Deer
1	Take O/L Deer
4	Hunt w/Unplugged Shotgun
9	Not Abide By Rules/Regs WMA
3	Hunt Non-Game Quads Illegal Hours
2	Possession Of Firearm On BREC Park
2	Hunt MGB (Ducks) w/o Federal Stamp
1	Hunt MGB (Ducks) w/Unsigned Stamp
1	Hunt MGB (Ducks) Closed Season
5	Hunt MGB (Ducks) Illegal Hours
1	Hunt MGB (Ducks) From A Moving Vehicle
1	Hunt MGB (Ducks) w/Illegal Weapon
1	Violate Non-Toxic Shot Requirements
5	Violate NWR Regulations
1	Trespass On DMAP Land
6	DWI (Land)
5	Improper Lane Usage
4	Driving Under Suspension

1	No Tail Lights
1	Expired MVI
2	No Drivers License In Possession
3	Open Container
1	Fail To Dim Headlights
1	Switched License Plate
2	Misrepresentation During Issuance Of A Misdemeanor
3	Intentional Litter

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	24	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2		Boating Safety
1		Hunt w/o Bow License
1		Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Permit
14		Not Abide By Rules/Regs On WMA
1		Hunt MGB (Ducks) w/o State Stamp
1		Use WMA w/o Stamp Or License
4		Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
4-Deer; 4-Ducks; 1-Squirrel; 3-Crab Traps

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
25	Boating
3	Commercial Fishing
20	Federal Migratory
3	Littering
26	Miscellaneous
14	Recreational Fishing
159	State Hunt/Trapping
24	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
9	Motorists

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Pearl River	9	8
Maurepas Swamp	3	3
Tangi School Board	3	1
Joyce	3	0
Sandy Hollow	1	2
Tunica	1	0
Bens Creek	1	1
Hutchinson Creek	0	0
Lake Ramsey	0	0

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
0	0

REGION 8: NEW ORLEANS**PARISHES: PLAQUEMINES, ST. BERNARD,
ORLEANS, JEFFERSON,
ST. CHARLES**

TOTAL CASES	211
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
24	Boating
13	Angle w/o License
16	Angle w/o License Non Resident
6	Angle w/o License Saltwater
6	Angle w/o License Saltwater Non Resident
5	Take/Possess O/L Of Red Drum (On Water)
1	Possess Over 10 Red Drum (Off Water)
16	Take/Possess U/S Red Drum
4	Take/Possess U/S Black Drum(Rec.)
2	Take/Possess O/L Spotted Sea Trout(On Water)
3	Take/Possess O/L Black Drum(Rec.)
1	Take/Possess Spoonbill Catfish
1	Sell /Buy Fish w/o Wholesale Retail
8	Fail To Maintain Records
2	Use Saltwater Net Illegally
1	Sell/Purchase Gamefish

4	Fail To Comply w/Gamefish Shipping Regulations
22	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
7	Taking Oysters From An Unapproved Area(Polluted)
3	Violate Sanitation Code Book (log book)
6	Violate Sanitation Code (Refrigeration)
1	Hunt w/o Resident License
1	Possess Wild Birds/Wild Quadrupeds w/o License
1	Hunt w/o Non Resident License
2	Hunt w/Unplugged Gun
3	Hunt MGB w/o State MGB License
3	Driving On Levees
1	Possession Of Untagged Deer
1	Fail To Comply w/Deer Tagging
1	Take Alligators w/o License
9	Violate Migratory Bird Treaty Act Miscellaneous
4	Hunt Ducks/Geese w/o Federal Duck Stamp
3	Hunt w/Unsigned Duck Stamp
3	Hunt MGB w/Unplugged Gun (Federal)
1	Hunt MGB w/Unplugged Gun (State)
5	Hunt MGB Over Baited Area

2	Possess O/L Of Coot (Field Possession)
1	Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
1	Take/Possess O/L Field Ducks (Possession)
1	Possess O/L Ducks
2	Not Abiding By Rules/Regs On WMA
1	Use WMA w/o License Or Stamp
2	Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Hunt Permit
2	Littering
2	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
2	Flight From An Officer
4	Intentionally Destroy, Conceal, Dispose Of
1	Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	46	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
30		Boating
2		Angle w/o License
3		Angle w/o License Non Resident
1		Take/Possess O/L Red Drum (On Water)

4	Take/Possess U/S Red Drum
2	Take/Possess U/S Black Drum(Rec.)
3	Not Abiding By Rules/Regs On WMA
1	Use WMA w/o License Or Stamp

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
Returned To Water....Oyster Sacks(318) Donated....Red Drum(103)...Sheepshead(1)...Spotted Seatrout(99)...Gadwall(4) Ringnecks(2)...Teal(9)....Coots(92)....Black Drum(46)....Mottled Duck(2), Shoveler(1)....Redhead(6)...Ducks(51)....Trout(24)...Pintail(8)....Spoonbill Hen(1)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
24	Boating
55	Commercial Fishing
32	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
14	Miscellaneous
70	Recreational Fishing

14	State Hunt/Trapping
46	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
6	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Pass A Loutre	2	0
Lake Salvador	13	0
Biloxi	0	5

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
0	0

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**STATEWIDE**

TOTAL CASES	14
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Violate Interstate Commerce Regulations
2	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Buy/Sell Fish w/o Retail Seafood License
1	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data
1	Fail To Comply w/Game Fish Shipping Regulations
1	Sell/Purchase Gamefish
2	Transport w/o Required License
1	Buy/Sell Fish w/o Wholesale/Retail Dealers License
1	Commercial Fisherman Sell To Consumer w/o Fresh Products License
1	Hunt Ducks Closed Season
1	Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Permit
1	Take O/L Ducks (Canvasback)

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	3	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1		Fail To Comply w/Tiller Outboard Regulations
2		Hunt On WMA w/o WMA Permit

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
N/A	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SIU:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
	Boating
11	Commercial Fishing
	Federal Migratory
	Littering
	Miscellaneous
	Recreational Fishing
3	State Hunt/Trapping
3	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Atchafalaya Delta	1	2

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED
0	0

STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE**STATEWIDE**

TOTAL CASES	147
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Not abiding by rules/regs on WMA (Three Rivers WMA) (No self clearing permit)
2	Not abiding by rules/regs on WMA (Red River WMA) (hunt ducks after 2pm)
1	Not abiding by rules/regs on WMA (Red River WMA) (loaded firearm in vessel)
1	Not abiding by rules/regs on WMA (Salvador WMA) (loaded gun in vessel)
4	Hunt MGB w/o state stamp
2	Hunt MGB w/o federal duck stamp
3	Hunt MGB w/an unplugged gun
6	Hunt MGB from moving Motorboat
3	Rallying MGB
1	Violate Non Toxic shot requirements (Salvador WMA)
1	Violate MGB treaty act (take pied billed grebe) (Salvador WMA)
1	Violate MGB treaty act (No federal duck stamp) (Salvador WMA)
2	(Federal) Violate MGB tagging requirements
2	(Federal) Possess over 2 day limit MGB
1	(Federal) Violate Non toxic shot requirements
1	(Federal) Taking Grebe No season (Red River WMA)
1	Take/possess other non game birds no season (Atchafalaya Delta WMA) (Sand Piper)

2	Hunt wild Quadrupeds illegal hours
2	Hunt from a public road
4	Hunt deer illegal hours
4	Hunt deer from a public road
2	Hunt WMA w/o WMA permit (Salvador WMA)
2	Hunt WMA w/o WMA permit (Atchafalaya Delta WMA)
2	Hunt w/unplugged gun
1	Hunt w/o license
1	Fail to wear hunters orange
2	Fail to comply w/stand requirements on state land
8	Angle w/o License
1	Angle w/o saltwater license
3	Angle w/o license (non resident)
1	Angle w/o saltwater license (non resident)
1	Take/Possess U/S Red Drum
40	Take Oysters from an unapproved area (Polluted Area)
2	Fail to display proper number on oyster vessel
1	Driving boat w/suspended Drivers License
1	Fail to comply w/boating education requirements
2	Improper/no fire extinguisher

2	Improper running lights
1	Fail to have PFD on person under 17 while underway
1	Expired boat registration
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements in a class A tiller vessel
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements in a class A tiller vessel (Salvador WMA)
1	Fail to comply w/kill lanyard in a class A tiller vessel
1	Improper riding on deck or gunwales
1	Fail to comply w/seafood transport license
3	Injuring public records
3	File false public records
2	Theft by fraud
1	Gross Littering
2	Simple Littering
1	Simple Possession of Marijuana
1	Possession of Marijuana w/intent to distribute
1	Possession of schedule 2 w/intent to distribute (Adderall)
1	Contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile
2	Fail to maintain records
1	Other than Wildlife (reckless operation of a vehicle)

1	Possess vessel w/altered or no HIN
1	Possess outboard w/removed serial number

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	45	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
6		Improper running lights
1		Improper or no fire extinguisher
2		Improper or no fire extinguisher (Salvador WMA)
5		Fail to comply w/kill lanyard in class A tiller
1		Fail to comply w/boaters education requirements
4		Fail to have PFD on person under 17 while underway
4		Fail to comply w/PFD requirements in Class A vessel
1		Fail to comply w/PFD requirements
2		Improper boat numbers
1		Fail to display valid certificate decal (Salvador WMA)
1		Fail to display valid certificate decal
1		No boat registration in possession
1		Expired boat registration
5		Angle w/o license
3		Angle w/o saltwater license

3	Take/Possess U/S red drum
1	Take or Possess U/S black drum
2	Not abiding by rules/regs on WMA (Red River WMA) (Loaded firearm on ATV)
1	Fail to wear hunters orange
1	Hunt MGB w/o resident duck license
1	Fail to comply w/stand requirements on state land
1	Hunt WMA w/o WMA permit (Atchafalaya Delta WMA)
2	Not abiding by rules/regs on WMA (Salvador WMA) (No WMA permit)
1	Use WMA w/o license or stamp (Salvador WMA)

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 Grebe / Discarded; 21 Adderall / Held at Acadiana Crime Lab; 3 Plastic Bags of Marijuana / Held at Acadiana Crime Lab; 1 Glass Pipe w/Marijuana substance / Held at Acadiana Crime Lab; 85 Coots / Donated; 2 Sheepshead / returned to the water; 1 pied billed grebe / discarded; 27 Red drum fillets / Donated; 12 Red drum / returned to the water; 1 Duck / discarded; 18 Ducks / Donated; 6 Sand Pipers / Held for evidence; 139 Sacks of oysters / Returned to the water; 3 Deer / Donated

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SSF:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
17	Boating

40	Commercial Fishing
28	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
18	Miscellaneous
14	Recreational Fishing
28	State Hunt/Trapping
45	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
1	Public Assistance

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACTIVITIES:

WMA	CITATIONS	WARNINGS
Salvador	7	6
Red River	4	2
Three Rivers	2	0
Atchafalaya Delta	3	1

LIFEJACKET LOANER PROGRAM:

NUMBER LIFE JACKETS LOANED	NUMBER LIFE JACKETS RETURNED

TOTAL CASES 1714

WRITTEN WARNINGS 375

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE 54

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
January 5, 2011
9:30 AM

- ✓ 1. Roll Call
- ✓ 2. Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2011
- ✓ 3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
- ✓ 4. To hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/December – Joey Broussard
- ✓ 5. To hear General Information on Upcoming Notices of Intent for the 2012-2013 Hunting Seasons – Kenny Ribbeck
- ✓ 6. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012-2013 Commercial Reef Fish Seasons – Jason Adriance
- ✓ 7. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012- 2013 Recreational Reef Fish Seasons – Jason Adriance
- ✓ 8. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency for the 2012- 2013 Commercial King Mackerel Season – Jason Adriance
- ✓ 9. To receive and consider a Resolution and Declaration of Emergency – Closure of the Recreational Fishery for Gag Grouper in Louisiana Waters – Jason Adriance
- ✓ 10. To consider Declaration of Emergency on Fisheries Closures due to Oil Spill – Harry Blanchet
- ✓ 11. To consider Notice of Intent to Establish Procedures for a Vessel Monitoring System to be used by Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permittees – Jason Froeba
- 12. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- 13. Set May 2012 Meeting Date
- 14. Receive Public Comments
- 15. Adjournment

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, January 5, 2012
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife and Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Stephen Sagrera (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Pat Manuel	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Stephen Oats	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Ann Taylor	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Ronny Graham	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Mike Voisin	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Billy Broussard	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 7 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum. Secretary Barham is also present.

March 1, 2007

**RESIDENT GAME HUNTING SEASONS: PROTOCOL FOR ADOPTION OF
AMENDMENTS TO HUNTING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS**

~ **JANUARY** – Staff will make an oral presentation to Commission relative to changes contained in proposed Notices of Intent (NoI) for the Season Dates (SD) and the General/WMA (G/WMA) hunting regulations. The Commission will take the Department's comments under advisement, and there will be no motions or formal action.

Public comment accepted.

~ **FEBRUARY** – Staff will present its recommended NoI for SD and G/WMA hunting regulations.

COMMISSION ACTS UPON N/Is AT THIS MEETING.

Commission members may propose changes to the recommended NoI. Such proposed changes shall be made by motion, second and vote. Any such changes shall be incorporated into the NoI, which shall be published accordingly, in the February Register after approval by the Commission.

Public comment accepted.

~ **MARCH** – Commission members may propose amendments to the NoI. Any proposed amendments shall be by motion, second and vote; and if approved, shall be deemed to be conditionally adopted, subject to public comment and further deliberation.

Public comments shall be accepted on all conditionally adopted amendments, as well as on the NoI. Conditionally adopted amendments shall require a second vote at the May meeting, and shall be considered for approval or disapproval only in their latest version and without modification.

(Statewide public hearings take place this month as well.)

~ **APRIL** – Commission members may propose amendments to the NoI. Any proposed amendments shall be by motion, second and vote; and if approved, shall be deemed to be conditionally adopted, subject to public comment and further deliberation.

Public comments shall be accepted on all conditionally adopted amendments, as well as on the NoI. Conditionally adopted amendments shall require a second vote at the May meeting, and shall be considered for approval or disapproval only in their latest version and without modification.

Last meeting at which new amendments to NoI will be conditionally adopted.

~ **MAY** – No further amendments to NoI will be offered or considered – either from Commission members, staff, or as a result of public comment. The only deliberation from this point on is regarding the NoI adopted in February and the amendments to the NoI which were conditionally adopted in March and April.

Public comment accepted, but the public will be advised that from this point on in the process, the Commission will be deliberating only the above.

COMMISSION MAKES FINAL DECISION ON BOTH NoI AND THEIR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AT THIS MEETING. NO CHANGES WILL BE CONSIDERED OR ADOPTED AFTER THIS MEETING UNLESS DIRECTED BY OVERSIGHT. THE SEASON DATES NoI WILL BE EFFECTIVELY FINAL AS OF THIS MEETING.

Commission votes on amendments to NoI conditionally adopted in March and April. Staff will compile a numbered list of all such amendments in the order they were adopted. Each amendment requires another motion, second and vote this month in order to be included in the package going to Oversight. The amendments conditionally adopted may be considered individually or in globo. Each amendment will be voted on up or down but only in the form in which it was conditionally adopted, and without modification. After all amendments have been considered and voted on, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the SD NoI as amended -or without amendments - as the case may be. This will be followed by a similar motion on the G/WMA NoI.

Any amendments to the February G/WMA NoI which are finally adopted at this meeting are sent to Oversight immediately following this meeting. (This should be no later than May 10th.)

~ **JUNE - NO ACTION** (by Commission).

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

We should know status of Oversight by June 15th. If Oversight makes no changes, the Secretary will proceed to finalize both Rules without further action or revisitation by Commission.

~ **JULY** – Final Rule (General/WMA regs) Ratified as approved by Oversight, but only in the event that Oversight mandates changes. If no changes, Secretary will finalize the final rule prior to the July meeting, and this item WILL NOT be on Commission Agenda.

Thus, the regs will go to the printer sometime between June 15th and July 10th approximately.

This protocol shall be varied only in the event that there is a biological need that is recognized by Department staff, and there are recommendations made by Department staff as a result thereof.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Office of Wildlife

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Baton Rouge, LA 70898

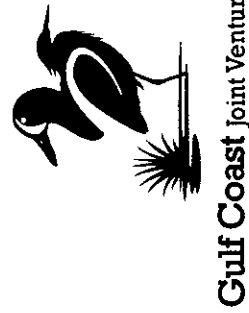
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Louisiana
Wildlife
Partnerships

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE PARTNERSHIPS

Putting Wildlife Habitat Management Practices on the Ground



Louisiana Conservation Delivery Committee

The Louisiana Conservation Delivery Committee will coordinate and communicate through wildlife habitat conservation program leaders within Louisiana's conservation partner organizations to share information, set broad priorities, seek consensus on priority actions and work cooperatively to address common challenges and hurdles. The committee's sole purpose is to unify support between partners, share information, support, deliver and apply meaningful biological on-the-ground objectives to private landowners.

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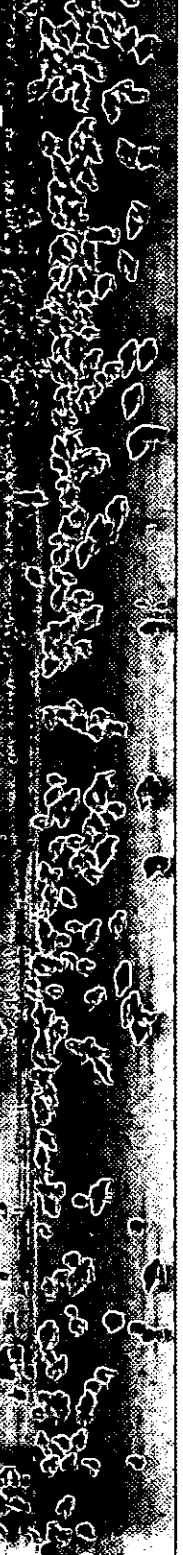
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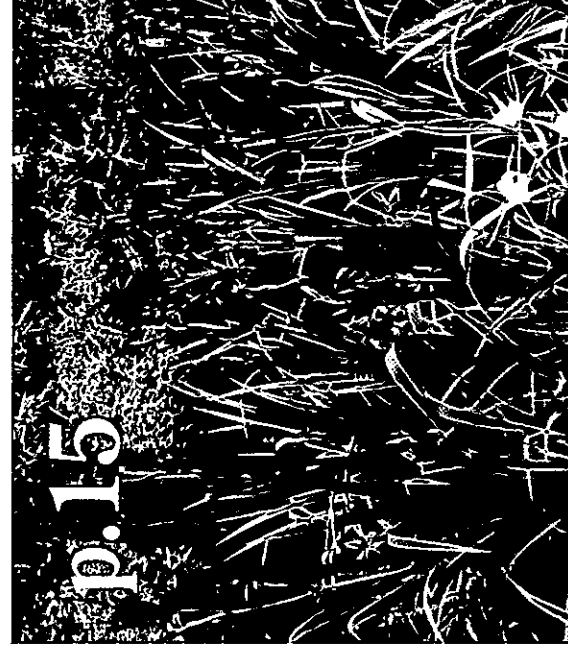
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Opening the Morganza Floodway

BY SCOTT DURHAM, JOHNATHAN BORDELON AND TONY VIDRINE, WILDLIFE DIVISION BIOLOGISTS

The 2011 spring flood of the Mississippi River resulted in the opening of the Morganza Floodway. The Morganza Floodway was built in 1954 to maintain a flow of 1.5 million cubic feet per second of water below the floodway in order to prevent flooding of downstream metropolitan areas such as Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The first time the Morganza Floodway was opened was in 1973; 2011 was the second.

After opening the first gate on May 14, 2011 a slow rise was predicted in the floodway south of Morganza. Gates were opened gradually which limited the advancement of flood waters the first few days of the event. However, additional gates were opened each day, and a greater rate of rise occurred. Once flood waters reached the

Sherburne WMA headquarters on May 18, LDWF biologists documented a 4-foot rise in an eight-hour period, resulting in moderate deer mortality.

Although some mortality occurred, most deer escaped the rising waters. Biologists witnessed approximately 200 deer exiting the floodway at Lottie on the evening of May 17, and precautions were taken by law enforcement officials to slow traffic on Hwy 190. The displaced deer survived in narrowly vegetated areas along the levees or in adjacent wood lots and utilized agriculture crops where available. Some deer survived the flood by floating on tree tops or logs.

Not all of the land within the floodway was inundated. The natural and man made

levee along the eastern side of the Atchafalaya River north of I-10 remained dry, and many deer survived there. This flood was of shorter duration than the 1973 flood, and most deer trapped on high ground had sufficient food to survive.

LDWF biologists conducted mortality surveillance from shallow drive boats during the flood. Deer mortality estimates of up to 30 percent occurred in the area from the Morganza flood control structure south to I-10. Below I-10, mortality is thought to have been minimal. This area of the floodway experiences backwater flooding from high Atchafalaya River levels on a fairly regular basis, and the low density deer herd there is more adapted to these conditions. For example, deer exiting the floodway



Photo by Scott Durham, LDWF



Photo by John Hanks, LDWF

Sherburne WMA Height of flood water can be seen, but new growth occurred quickly after waters receded.

Tammany refuges, Atchafalaya Delta, Pointe aux Chenes, Lake Boeuf, Salvador, Timken, Biloxi and Pess-a-Louche WMAs.)



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To Bears, Corn is like Candy

BY JOHN ROBINETTE, BIOLOGIST PROGRAM MANAGER

Louisiana's expanding bear population necessitates that hunters adapt their wildlife feeding methods to avoid problems with bears. Foraging by bears increases in the fall as bears put on those extra pounds needed to survive the winter when food supplies become short. Corn, like acorns, is a high-energy food that is like candy to a bear. In areas inhabited by bears, deer hunters using corn to feed deer are also inviting bears to the candy bowl. The best way to avoid attracting bears to a feeding site is simple; don't feed with corn.

Food plots are a preferred alternative to feeders. However, for those hunters unable to develop food plots or that prefer to feed directly, the use of timed feeders is less attractive to bears than other methods that do not scatter the feed. Bears would prefer to belly up to the buffet and scoop pawfuls of food, rather than take the time to pick up individual grains of corn or other food that have been scattered on the ground. Even with the use of timed feeders, precautions need to be taken to prevent bears from tipping them over or breaking them open to get at the "candy" inside. Feeders should be at least 8 feet off the ground and 4 feet away from trees or poles. Electric fences will discourage bears, but it may take two strands of wire to repel both the smaller females and larger males, one strand of electric wire placed 15 to 18 inches above ground level and the other 24 to 30 inches off the ground. This low level electric wire fence can be jumped easily by deer. To make feeders even less attractive to bears, soybeans can be used in place of corn. However, some bears may develop a taste for soybeans.

Although bears are normally shy and not aggressive toward humans, hunters in areas with black bear populations may consider purchasing a dispenser of "bear spray." Nearly all close encounters that hunters have with black bears are the result of a curious bear rather than an aggressive bear. However, bear spray is a good "insurance policy" and will send curious bears running. ■

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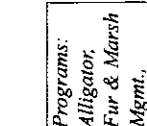
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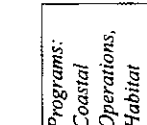
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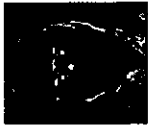
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near Attakapas WMA were observed in agricultural fields weeks before the peak of the river rise.

When the waters receded, deer began returning to their home ranges almost immediately. Woody vegetation began recovering within a couple of weeks where water levels were not high. In areas that saw deep flooding and where inundation was the longest, recovery was slower. Ultimately however, the new growth that has occurred after the flood is nutrient rich, providing wildlife with high quality browse during the time of year that browse quality usually begins to decline. Recent browse surveys at Sherburne WMA have shown that on the north end of the area, the impact of the flood is still noticeable, with some vegetation in the lowest lying areas slower to recover. It was here that the water arrived first and remained the longest, yet deer sign and browsing were observed. In contrast, it is hard to tell that a flood had even occurred on portions of the south end of Sherburne WMA where bright green vegetation and abundant deer sign were observed. Other surveys on the northern end of the floodway on private lands have also shown good deer sign and habitat quality.

Fortunately, this was just in time for the major fawning period in these areas (July and August). However, recruitment (fawn birth and survival) may be impacted due to the stress that the females endured while displaced. Close monitoring of habitat conditions and recruitment will be a priority in the coming months. Biologists have already begun doing habitat surveys in the affected areas. No long term negative impacts are expected due to the flood, as lower deer densities in some areas may actually have a positive long term impact on growth, development and productivity of deer that survived.

The floodway opening was quite an experience for all involved. Most of us could do without another in our lifetimes. But it is always amazing to observe the resiliency of nature and the ability of wildlife to adapt and survive, even in the most artificial systems developed by man to enhance and protect life and property. ■

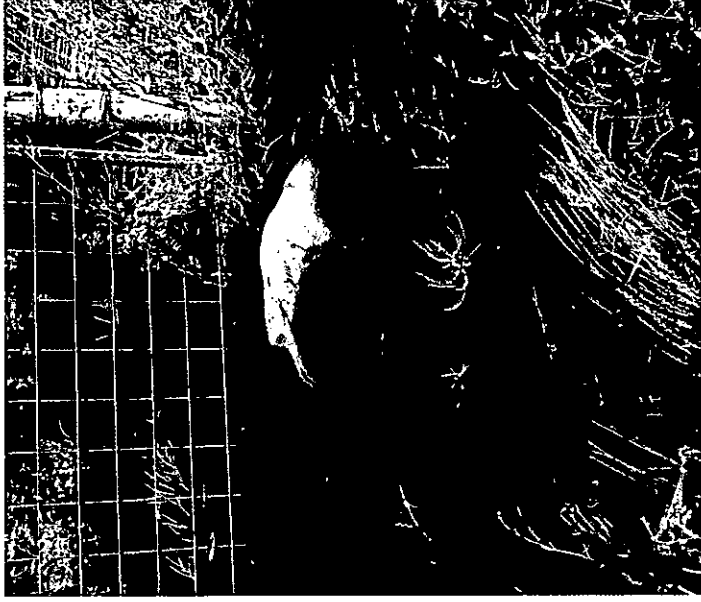


Photo by Travis Dufour LDWF

Many deer and other wildlife species unfortunately drowned during the flood.

Hey!

When's Hunt'n Season Open?

BY RANDY MYERS, BIOLOGIST PROGRAM MANAGER

(Note: the following article describes the process of how the resident hunting seasons, rules and regulations that govern Louisiana hunting seasons are established. The Louisiana migratory bird seasons are established separately and an article describing this process is available on the web at www.wlf.la.gov.)

Every summer, LDWF staff receive numerous phone calls and emails from anxious hunters inquiring about the opening dates for the upcoming hunting seasons. The answers to such questions are fairly simple, with a quick referral to what everyone knows as the Louisiana Hunting Regulations pamphlet. However, most hunters may not know that in reality, the task of setting Louisiana's hunting seasons is quite a lengthy and arduous process.

The process for setting resident game hunting seasons usually starts in December with LDWF staff meetings to discuss resident game hunting seasons for the upcoming year. Prior to these meetings, the biological staff review and analyze available biological data, including harvest reports, habitat conditions, animal health or disease problems, reproduction data, and other information collected during the current hunting season. These discussions include reviewing available statewide harvest data and hunter user information collected from wildlife management areas (WMAs). In addition, rules and regulations pertaining to the various hunting seasons on private lands or WMAs are also discussed (e.g. legal means of take, special seasons/youth hunts, legal weapons, etc.). Separate meetings are held with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss their proposed seasons and regulations on lands that they manage. From these meetings, proposed changes to rules and regulations or resident hunting season dates are then incorporated into two documents, one concerning the general hunting seasons on private lands and the other for the WMA seasons, general rules and regulations.

The document containing the season dates and hunting regulations is called a Notice of Intent or NOI. This is a legal document that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will act upon and serves as notice to the public that a change in rules or seasons is being considered and outlines the proposed change(s). Each NOI is written in a generic format. For example, the generic format or wording for the dates of the Area 1 primitive firearm deer hunting season is written as "opens the second Saturday of November and closes the Friday after the second Saturday of November." However, when the hunting regulations pamphlet is published, the generic language is converted to corresponding cal-



Photo by John Robinette, LDWF

Clear Creek WMA: Managed deer hunt, opening day.

endar dates for that year. In this example, the generic language for the primitive firearm deer hunting season for Area 1 is converted to Nov. 12-18, 2011.

The generic language format was adopted several years ago to simplify the way the seasons are established. This system stabilized the setting of the hunting season dates and avoided the writing of an entirely new NOI each year just to address a simple calendar adjustment. For instance, the first Saturday in October is the generic opening date for squirrel season. In 2011, the first Saturday in October will be Oct. 1, but in 2012 it will be Oct. 6. Without the generic format, an entirely new NOI would have to be written and presented each year because of changes in calendar dates. Perhaps most importantly, this gives hunters advance notice of what to expect for future seasons and helps those that are planning vacations, work schedules and even weddings.

Once the NOIs are completed, they are presented to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) during the February meeting. At this meeting, the NOIs are usually approved and/or amended by the LWFC. This does not mean the content of the NOIs become the new regulations, rather it simply starts the next phase of the process which is receiving public comment on the proposed changes. The public is given 90 days to provide comments concerning the hunting seasons or regulations. Comments can be in the form of emails, phone calls, written responses or oral testimony at one of the monthly LWFC meetings held in February, March, April and May. In addition, LDWF biological staff conduct a series of six public meetings during March across the state. These meetings allow the public the opportunity to hear a presentation of the proposed hunting seasons and regulations while providing an additional forum for public comment, either oral or written. A summary of all public comments are provided to the LWFC during their March, April and May meetings.

The LWFC considers all public comments and weighs both social and biological impacts of the proposed NOIs. Sometimes the LWFC will amend the NOIs in response to public comment. Amendments to the NOIs can be made at the February, March and April LWFC meetings. In May, at the end of the 90-day public com-

ment period, the LWFC votes upon any amendments to the NOI. An example of this procedure occurred this year. During the March 2011 meeting, after oral testimony from the public, the LWFC voted to amend the NOI to extend the special youth deer hunting season on private lands by adding an additional five days.

Following action by the LWFC to amend the NOIs, the final vote on the entire NOI is taken. However, even after the LWFC approves the NOI, the process of setting the hunting seasons is not over. The NOIs are then forwarded to the Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC), pursuant to state law. The LOC has 30 days to review the NOIs. If no changes are made by LOC, the NOIs go back to the LWFC to be ratified. Only after the NOIs are ratified and published in the Louisiana State Register do they have the force of law. In June, after all the seasons and regulations are finalized, the Louisiana hunting regulations pamphlet is compiled, and by late summer is distributed to the public.

Once ratified by the LWFC, the hunting season dates or rules and regulations cannot be changed except by a Declaration of Emergency (DE). Occasionally, a DE will be used to address situations that pose a threat to human health or safety or for compelling biological reasons. A recent example of a DE that modified previously ratified hunting seasons occurred after the opening of the Morganza Spillway flooded the lower Atchafalaya River Basin in May 2011. LDWF biologists recommended adjustments to the deer season in response to this flood event. By DE, the number of deer hunting days in the flood-impacted area was reduced for the 2011-12 hunting season.

As you can see, establishing hunting seasons is an involved and extensive process. The multi-step process balances biological needs of our wildlife resources with the societal aspects and provides ample opportunity for public comment and participation.

So, when does hunting season open? For that answer, consult the Louisiana Hunting Regulations pamphlet, the department's website, or call one of the LDWF field offices. ■



LDWF File Photo

Above: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting
Baton Rouge
Right: LDWF Public Hearing Lake Charles, LA.



Photo by John Robinette, LDWF

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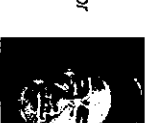
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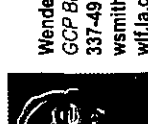
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BY KYLE F. BALKUM

Habitats such as marshes, swamps and bottomland hardwoods are easily recognized as wetlands because they are regularly flooded. However, habitats such as pine savannas and pine flatwoods do not always fit our notion of what a wetland is because surface soils in these areas may be dry at certain times of the year.

Wetlands are important for several reasons. Wetlands still provide a livelihood for trappers and fishermen. Oil and gas production and livestock grazing occur in wetlands. Wetlands are valuable for recreational activities such as sport fishing, hunting, bird watching, hiking and wildlife photography. In addition, wetlands provide important ecological functions such as improving water quality, reducing peak flood flow, reducing hurricane storm surge, and storing carbon. Wetlands are home to hundreds of species of wildlife and serve as nursery grounds for fish and shellfish.

Do you have a frequently flooded pasture that is no longer grazed or fields that are no longer farmed? Is the hydrology in your bottomland hardwood forest impaired by ditches and spoil banks or dominated by Chinese tallow tree? Have your pinelands been converted to slash or loblolly pine plantations and fire suppressed? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may be sitting on a potential wetland mitigation bank.

What Are Wetlands and Why Are They Important?

Wetlands are areas that are frequently inundated or saturated by surface or ground water during the growing season. The periodic inundation creates an environment that supports vegetation adapted for life in waterlogged soils. The types of wetlands found in Louisiana include marsh, bottomland hardwood forest, cypress/tupelo swamp, pine savannah, pine flatwoods, bat-ture, coastal prairie and chenier.

Who Regulates Wetlands and Why?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), as well as several other state and federal agencies, all have a role in regulating development activities in wetlands. Following is a brief description of some agency roles.

In order to discharge dredged or fill material into a wetland, a Department of the Army permit must be obtained from USACE. It is USACE that has responsibility to administer the permit program under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act insures that impacts to wetlands are avoided, minimized and, finally, mitigated.

Under the authority of the Louisiana State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act, LDNR regulates development activities in the Louisiana Coastal Zone. LDNR seeks to maintain a balance



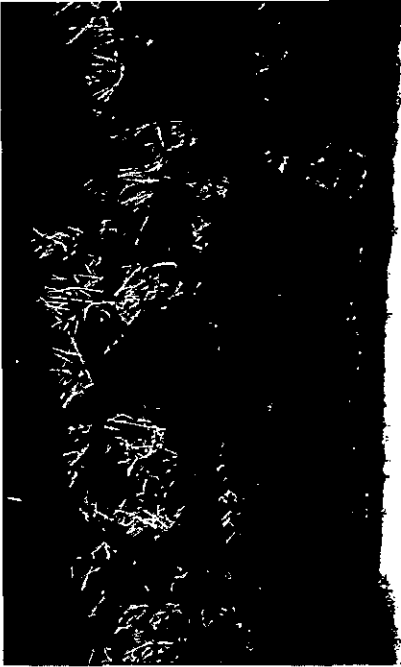
Marsh
LDWF File Photo



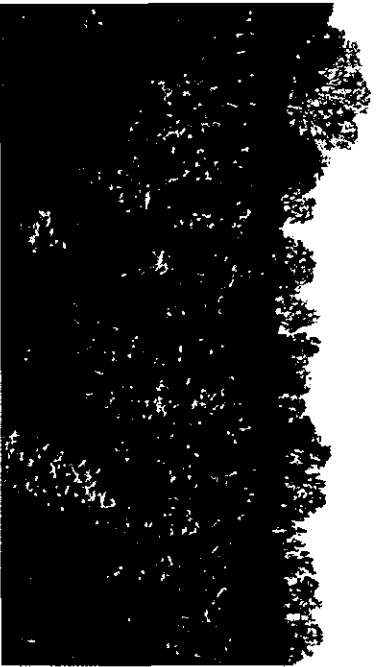
Cypress/Tupelo Swamp



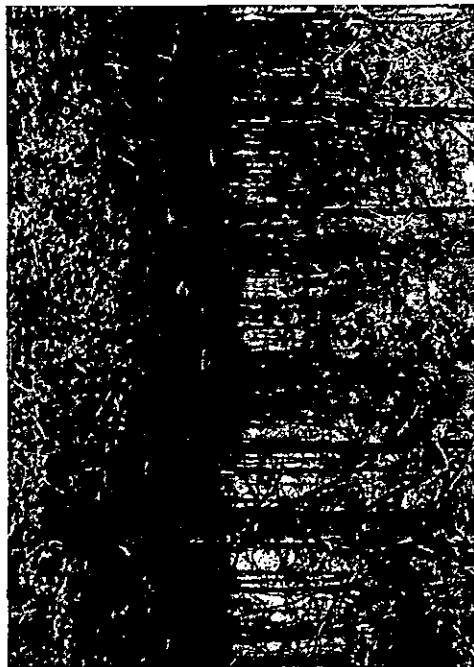
Longleaf Savannah



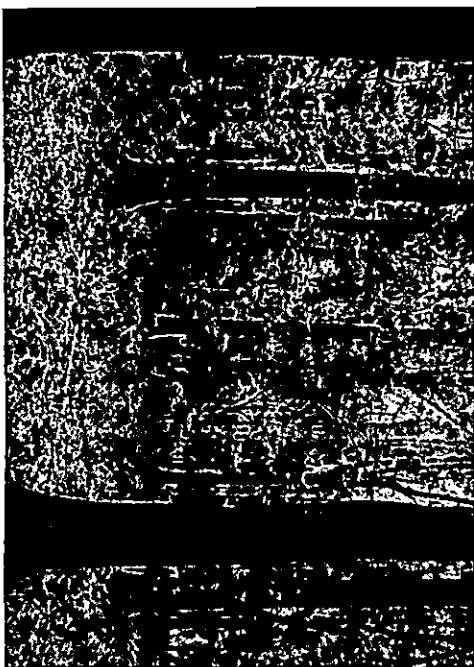
Planting/Restoring a Bottomland Hardwood Forest



Five-Year-Old Restored Bottomland Hardwood Forest



Twenty-Year-Old Restored Bottomland Hardwood Forest



Photos by LDWF Forestry

between economic growth and resource conservation. Permitted activities that result in the loss of wetlands are required to be mitigated.

In accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, USACE consults with LDWF on activities that affect aquatic resources, including wetlands. Similarly, because the Louisiana Constitution and state law grant LDWF control and supervision of all wildlife, including aquatic life, LDNR consults with LDWF before authorizing activities in the Coastal Zone.

What Is Compensatory Mitigation?

Once it is determined that an activity will adversely impact wetlands, all efforts must be made to avoid and minimize such impacts. It is the unavoidable wetland impacts that must be compensated. Compensatory mitigation ensures that those lost wetland functions are replaced. Compensatory mitigation can be achieved through the following methods:

1. **Restoration** – restoring the natural functions of a prior converted or severely degraded wetland. An example of restoration is the conversion of agricultural land that was once wetlands back to a bottomland hardwood forest. Restoration activities include planting the site with appropriate species and eliminating all barriers to surface water flow (e.g. filling drainage ditches, degrading spoil banks and roadbeds). In pine savannah and pine flatwoods wetlands, regular prescribed burning is required to maintain community structure.
2. **Enhancement** – enhancing or improving the natural functions of an existing impaired wetland. Examples of enhancement activities include removing exotic/invasive species, implementing fire management, planting appropriate species or improving surface hydrology. Unlike restoration sites where wetland hydrology and vegetation are completely lacking, an enhancement site already functions as a wetland but needs one or more enhancement measures to achieve the targeted wetland habitat.
3. **Preservation** – preserving or permanently protecting unique, rare or difficult-to-replace wetlands. An example of preservation is the permanent protection of mature cypress/tupelo swamp that may be threatened by development or may not regenerate naturally after logging. Preservation may not contribute to the “no net loss” of wetlands goal and may only be used in certain circumstances.

In most cases, unavoidable wetland impacts must be mitigated “in-kind” and “in-basin.” “In-kind” means that the wetland mitigation and the permitted wetland losses must be of the same kind. For example, if marsh is lost, marsh must be replaced. Likewise, if pine savannah is lost, pine savannah must be replaced. In-kind mitigation ensures that particular wetland types or functions are not lost.

Similarly, “in-basin” means that the wetland mitigation and the permitted wetland losses must be located within the same basin or watershed (a basin or watershed is a region drained by a single river system). For example, the loss of wetlands in the Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncta Watershed of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington parishes must be mitigated in that same watershed. Such an approach ensures long-term ecological functioning of the watershed.

What Are Mitigation Banks?

Wetland mitigation banks are wetland areas that have been restored, enhanced or preserved. These areas are permanently set aside, via a conservation easement, to compensate for future wetland impacts resulting from permitted development activities. Mitigation bank sponsors are responsible for the ecological success of the bank and are required to meet short- and long-term success criteria, adhere to monitoring and reporting protocols, perform long-term maintenance, and possibly adaptively manage the bank in order to ensure successful long-term performance.

How Does It All Work?

Once the regulatory agencies authorize a mitigation bank, a certain number of “credits” is made available for sale by the bank sponsor. The total number of credits available is determined by quantifying the increase in wetland functions



THE ABBEVILLE RED IRIS

Louisiana's Only Endemic Plant

BY CHRIS REID, LDWF BOTANIST, AND AMITY BASS, LDWF BIOLOGIST MANAGER

Louisiana is home to approximately 2,500 species of native plants. While several of these plants have small natural ranges, only one species is completely restricted to Louisiana: the Abbeville red iris (*Iris nelsonii*). Globally, there are about 200 known species of irises. The Abbeville red iris belongs to a group of four closely-related species referred to as the “Louisiana irises.” Louisiana irises have been crossed with each other to produce hybrids for cultivation as ornamentals. The Louisiana irises include short-stem iris (*Iris brevicaulis*), copper iris (*Iris fulva*), large blue-flag (*Iris gigantea-nolea*), and the Abbeville red iris. There is another iris native to Louisiana that is not included in the Louisiana iris group, southern blue-flag iris (*Iris virginica*), which is distributed throughout eastern North America. Yellow-flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), which is native to Europe, is an exotic pest in the United States and is present in Louisiana.

The Abbeville red iris was discovered in the 1930s and was named and described in 1966 by L.F. Randolph. It is a relatively large species, growing 4 to 6 feet tall. The flowers are red or red-purple, with a less common pale yellow form. Its natural range is apparently restricted to Turkey Island Swamp which is located near its namesake town in Vermilion Parish. Randolph reported encountering Abbeville reds in water that was waist-deep in the shady cypress-tupelo swamp interior. The hydrology of the swamp has changed over the years, mostly due to agricultural use and modification of waterways to improve drainage, resulting in a swamp more shallow than Randolph found. There are some Abbeville red iris colonies in the interior of the swamp, but the most robust stands occur in ditches and along the banks of waterways, possibly because these sites are wetter.

So, how did the Abbeville red iris come to be, and why is it only in one swamp in south Louisiana? Studies suggest that the Abbeville red iris developed as a hybrid of three species: copper iris, large blue-flag and short-stem iris. Turkey Island Swamp occurs in a part of Louisiana where bottomland hardwood forests, cypress-tupelo swamps, and open coastal marshes are very near each other. This close proximity of wetland habitats increases the chances that irises adapted to these different habitats will interbreed and form hybrids. Copper iris occupies seasonally wet, shady bottomland hardwood forests (though it can adapt to high sunlight roadside ditches on today's landscape). Large blue-flag grows in marshes and on shorelines and likes a lot of sunlight. Short-stem iris likes drier sunny to partly shady habitats. By preferring the very wet and shady swamp interior, the habitat preference of Abbeville red iris is intermediate between its parental species. By occupying a habitat that is different from the parental species, the Abbeville red iris has become isolated from them. This isolation has allowed the Abbeville red iris to stabilize and persist as a lineage evolving separately from the parents.

There is no evidence of the Abbeville red iris having dispersed beyond Turkey Island Swamp. With such a small natural

range, this iris has “all its eggs in one basket,” unlike many other plants that have populations in many places. Therefore, the loss or degradation of Turkey Island Swamp can result in extirpation of the entire species. Abbeville reds occur in a habitat that is relatively difficult to completely destroy, which is probably why it still exists. The habitat can be degraded though, and there are threats. It appears that the swamp is drier now than it was historically. This change in hydrology may directly affect the extent and abundance of the Abbeville red iris. While the Abbeville red iris initially arose through hybridization, isolation from parental species due to differences in habitat allowed the Abbeville reds to persist. Habitat change could cause reproductive barriers between the Abbeville reds and parental species to dissolve, threatening the integrity of the species. Salt water intrusion caused by hurricanes and magnified by coastal erosion also poses a threat.

Outside of iris enthusiasts, botanists and evolutionary biologists, it is likely that few Louisiana citizens are aware of the existence of the Abbeville red iris, and its significance as Louisiana's only endemic plant. In 2011, legislative funding was obtained by Rep. Simone Champagne of Jeanerette and provided to LDWF to increase public awareness of the Abbeville red iris and to conduct survey work to document its extent in the swamp. Permission to access the swamp to survey for Abbeville reds was kindly granted by the landowners. In cooperation with Louisiana State Parks, educational materials were developed for display at Palmetto Island State Park, near Abbeville. Rhizomes of Abbeville reds were purchased and are to soon be planted at Palmetto Island State Park to allow public viewing of the species.

Research is underway to determine which insects and/or birds pollinate the Abbeville red iris. Generally, blue-flowered irises are pollinated by bumblebees and red-flowered species are pollinated by hummingbirds. These associations are not strict. Additional studies of the genetic make-up of Abbeville reds are in progress by biologists at Texas State University. One specific question to be addressed is whether or not gene flow is occurring between Abbeville reds and the parental species. This research, coupled with other conservation efforts will help ensure that the Abbeville red iris continues to survive and contribute to the uniqueness that is Louisiana. ■





Fire intrusion onto other property is a risk of prescribed burning.
Photo by Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, forestryimages.org



Smoke from burning can move across roads, causing hazardous driving conditions.
Photo by Dale Wade, Rx Fire Doctor, forestryimages.org



Turkeys nest on the ground, and can be affected by burning.
Photo by Linda Haugen, USDA Forest Service, forestryimages.org

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Prescribed burning has many benefits and is a very important tool for land managers, however, it must be used carefully. Experienced practitioners of prescribed burning consider a wide variety of factors in order to safely conduct a prescribed burn. Some of those considerations include fuel load, fuel moisture, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, temperature, smoke dispersal in the atmosphere, and the location of the property relative to sensitive areas such as roads, schools, hospitals, etc. There are some tracts of land that by nature of their location are poorly suited to prescribed burning. For such sites, alternative methods of vegetative manipulation such as selective herbicides or mechanical methods should be utilized.

For those sites where prescribed burning can be safely used, landowners should consider how prescribed burning will help them meet their management objectives and develop a plan that will enable them to effectively use this tool. Landowners should consider the following in their plan:

- 1. Establishment of fire breaks** - Firebreaks can be plowed as needed, but many landowners should consider permanent fire breaks that can be planted with a cover crop that will serve as a food plot and reduce soil erosion.
- 2. Burning rotation** - For most landowners in Louisiana, prescribed burning should be conducted on a two to three year rotation. There are some situations where annual burning is warranted and others where longer rotations are needed.
- 3. Size of burn units** - Landowners should usually avoid burning their entire acreage in the same year. Burning a portion of the property every year will create a patchwork of cover types and provide better habitat for wildlife.
- 4. Timing of burns** - Traditionally, prescribed burning was conducted during the late winter. However, burning can be conducted nearly year-round. Results from burns vary according to time of year, for instance February burns will impact vegetation differently than a May burn.
- 5. Impacts on timber resources** - While pines are fire resistant, some are less resistant than others. Longleaf pine is the most fire resistant and can be burned within a couple of years of establishment. On the other hand, loblolly and slash pine should not be burned until they are 10-12 years old.
- 6. Fuel accumulation** - Land that has not been burned in several years may have a high accumulation of fuel. These sites can and should be burned to reduce the risk of wildfire, but extreme care should be exercised. High accumulations of fuel can not only make the fire difficult to control, but can cause damage to valuable trees if proper precautions are not taken.

CONCLUSION

Because of Louisiana's fertile soils and long growing season, it is necessary to regularly manage vegetation to maintain native ecosystems, manage wildlife habitat, reduce the threat of wildfire and to meet other management objectives. Strategies for effective vegetation management may include fire, chemical, mechanical or grazing techniques. Each method has benefits and limitations. Carefully applied prescribed burning is a cost-effective method to fulfill a variety of landowner objectives. When burning conditions and risk are appropriate, it is often the preferred strategy for landowners interested in native habitat, forest, and wildlife management.

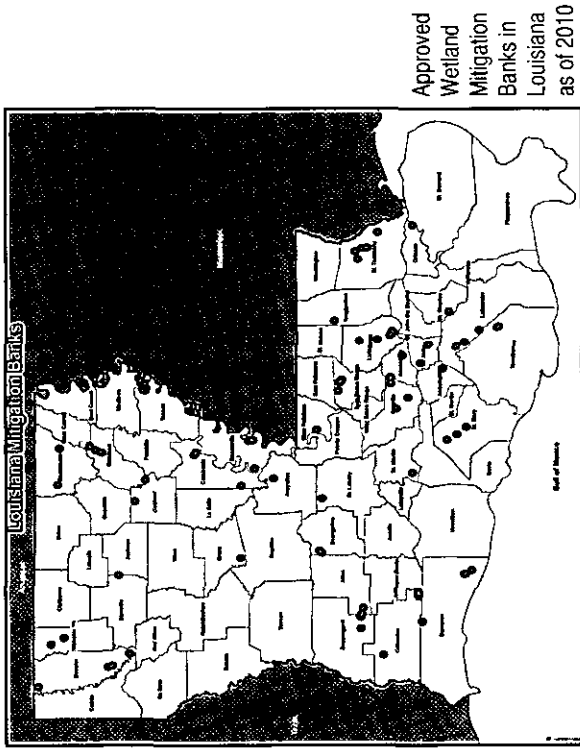
Prescribed burning is a valuable and effective tool for landowners and managers. However, there are risks associated with use of fire, so burning should only be conducted by experienced persons in accordance with rules and established standards. Landowners and managers lacking experience with prescribed burning should contact a consultant forester, the Louisiana Office of Forestry, or the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for more information. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Landowners for Wildlife Program offers free technical guidance to landowners and managers who wish to improve wildlife habitat. For information regarding prescribed burning, including the development of a management plan that incorporates prescribed burning, contact one of the department's field offices. ■

resulting from the sponsor's restoration, enhancement or preservation activities. Some credits are released for sale upon bank establishment and other credits are released as short- and long-term success criteria are achieved.

Subsequently, when a permit applicant needs to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts, they purchase sufficient credits from a mitigation bank that has available in-kind and in-basin credits. The purchase of such credits fulfills the permit applicant's requirement for compensatory mitigation. The cost of mitigation credits is dictated by supply and demand at the time of purchase and not by any government agency. The price of credits can vary widely based on factors such as land prices, construction, management costs and competition. It is now commonplace for applicants to pay in excess of \$10,000 per acre for forested wetland credits and far more for marsh credits.

Summary

Federal and state agencies recognize that wetland mitigation banking is critical in helping the Federal Government achieve the long-standing policy goal of "no net loss" of wetlands. To that end, 81 wetland mitigation banks have been approved in Louisiana totaling over 60,000 acres of wetlands. That combined acreage is roughly the size of some of Louisiana's largest wildlife management areas and refuges. Several mitigation banks are also nearing final agency approval and, once approved, will increase the acreage of permanently conserved wetlands and increase market competition. Mitigation banking is, after all, both conservation and business driven. From this agency's perspective, it's a success. ■



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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District:
www.mvn.usace.army.mil/ops/regulatory/Mit_program.asp

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District:
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HIP Certification

If you hunt migratory birds, you need to be HIP Certified.

BY JEFFREY P. DUGUAY, PH.D.,
RESEARCH & SURVEY PROGRAM MANAGER

HIP is an acronym for Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. HIP is a survey method by which each state and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) develop more accurate ways to determine the number of migratory birds harvested annually in each state. If you hunt ducks, coots, geese, brant, swans, doves, band-tailed pigeons, woodcock, rails, snipe, sandhill cranes, or gallinules in any state, then you are REQUIRED to participate in the HIP Program.

States and the USFWS need to know how many migratory birds are harvested annually, since this information is used by biologists to determine season lengths, bag limits and population monitoring.

How does HIP work?

Each year the USFWS randomly selects a sample of migratory bird hunters, as determined by HIP certification, and sends them a survey. There are different types of surveys depending on the species of migratory bird. Hunters may be asked what species they hunted, how many they harvested, etc., or they may be asked to send in a wing from each bird harvested. For example, someone that hunts ducks may be asked to send in one wing from each duck harvested during the current year's hunting season. They will be given special postage paid envelopes in which to send their wings. Biologists then attend an annual wingbee where they will determine the species of duck each wing came from and its gender and age. This information is then used to determine things like recruitment of young into the population by looking at the ratio of young birds to adult birds in the harvest. Wing data along with harvest data from the surveys, in addition to population surveys, are all used by biologists to determine population levels. This information is then used to set hunting seasons and bag limits.

How do I become HIP certified and what does HIP require of hunters?

When you buy your hunting license you must identify yourself as a migratory bird hunter. You will be asked to answer a short survey of the species and number of migratory birds you harvested the previous year. You will receive confirmation on your hunting license indicating proof of your HIP certification, which is required when hunting migratory birds.

What if I have a lifetime license?

You must still get HIP certified annually. You can obtain a HIP certification wherever a hunting license may be purchased.

What is the cost for HIP?

There is not cost for HIP, unless you hunt migratory birds without being HIP certified then the fine may be quite hefty.

Why is HIP important to me?

HIP is important to you because you are a hunter and hunters have always been at the forefront of wildlife conservation in America. By participating in HIP you are helping to conserve migratory birds in America and obeying the wildlife laws. ■



LDWF File Photo

Catatoula Lake

A Mega-scale Moist-soil Management Area

BY LARRY REYNOLDS, WATERFOWL BIOLOGIST

For migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, Catatoula Lake is a special place in early fall. It is arguably the most important early-season migration habitat in the lower Mississippi Flyway, providing mudflat and shallow-flooded wetland habitat for hundreds of thousands of migrant shorebirds and early-arriving blue-winged teal starting in late August. By early November, huge flocks of northern pintails as well as tens of thousands of mallards, gadwalls, green-winged teal and shovelers cover the lake and shoreline. As many as 500,000 ducks have been counted on aerial surveys conducted prior to the waterfowl hunting season. The birds come to Catatoula Lake in such large numbers for two primary reasons: consistent wetland habitat during a typically dry time of year and remarkable production of natural waterfowl foods.

Catatoula Lake is a 30,000-acre basin in central Louisiana consisting of about 20,000 acres of lake bed and 10,000 acres of hardwood trees. It is the largest freshwater lake in Louisiana and historically was characterized by flooding and drying cycles that maintained a broad expanse of herbaceous vegetation that is valuable to foraging waterfowl. In his mid-1960s study, biologist Dewey Willis found sprangletop, wild millet, chufa, flailsedge, bull tongue and spike rush among the most abundant plants at Catatoula Lake, and all are excellent duck foods. The natural flooding and drying of the lake bed create conditions that allow germination and growth of these seed

and tuber-producing annual plants through the summer and early fall. When flooded in late fall and winter, the seeds, rhizomes and tubers, as well as associated invertebrates, provide outstanding food resources for migrating and wintering waterfowl. The natural occurrence of the vegetative response to seasonal flooding and drying provided the foundation for what we call "moist-soil management."

In his early work in Illinois, legendary waterfowl biologist Frank Bellrose used the term "moist soil" vegetation to refer to plant species that grew on mudflats exposed by receding water levels during summer. Through observation and experimentation since then, waterfowl managers, wetland scientists and university researchers have developed a better understanding of plant responses to timing and duration of flooding/drying periods. Moist-soil management is currently one of the most common waterfowl management practices in migration and wintering areas, and the cornerstone of that management is still the strategic manipulation of water levels. Ideally, moist soil impoundments are created with levees, water-control structures and pumps that allow for "active" management through precise water-level control during the drawdown period, irrigation of maturing vegetation if necessary, and flooding to make food resources available for ducks. However, many wetland units are managed without that level of water control. Water-control structures catch and hold water during the fall, winter and spring, then are opened to allow dewatering and germina-

tion of moist-soil vegetation. This "passive" management is much less predictable, but does enhance foraging habitat in most years.

However, moist-soil management isn't quite as simple as just drying and flooding on a calendar schedule. Wetlands, especially those that provide valuable foraging habitat for waterfowl, are highly dynamic systems. Plant response often varies from year to year or in different locations despite the same schedule of draining and flooding. Temperature, soil type, timing of dewatering, and the ability to maintain moist or saturated soil conditions have an effect on resulting vegetative communities. Annual plants like wild millet and smartweed can be replaced by perennial plants that are less valuable waterfowl foods. Undesirable vegetation like cattail or coffeebean can become problems as well. Consequently, changes in water-level management such as leaving the area flooded for an entire year, or doing some physical manipulation like disking, burning or planting agricultural crops during the dry season may be necessary every three to five years to revitalize production of moist soil vegetation of high value to waterfowl.

Most of these aspects of moist soil management are evident at Catatoula Lake. The historic flooding regime was more variable than in recent years. Although the typical conditions flooded the lake bed from December through July and the late summer drawdown resulted in dense growth of moist-soil vegetation, there were years when

Prescribed burns can be conducted in late fall, winter and early spring. Consult with state and local agencies concerning permits and restrictions before starting a fire.

Pictured right: Regrowth following a late winter (February) burn.
Photo by David J. Moonhead, University of Georgia, forestryimages.org

REASONS WE BURN

Just as natural or human ignited fires in the past shaped the landscape, proper application of prescribed fire can be used today to achieve a variety of objectives.

Reduction of Fuels

Arson, human carelessness and lightning will inevitably ignite wildfires. If fuel loads (dead vegetation, pine needles, brush) are high, these fires can develop into intense fires that damage forest resources and property. Regular prescribed burning removes accumulated fuels, thereby reducing the risk of intense wildfires. Prescribed burning is conducted when weather conditions favor a controllable fire. In contrast, wildfires usually occur when conditions favor rapid spread. Prescribed burning for fuel reduction may not significantly decrease the number of fires, but will reduce their severity. Prescribed burning must be repeated at regular intervals to maintain the protective effect of reduced fuels. In the long growing seasons of the south, it takes only four to five years for fuels to return to hazardous levels.

Altering Vegetation Communities

Although not readily apparent, plant communities are constantly changing. If left unchecked, a longleaf pine forest will eventually become a hardwood-dominated forest and a prairie will become a forest. Fire is the process that halts this change and maintains our native plant communities. It does so by impeding the growth of invading plants such as sweetgum or yaupon that are not adapted to fire and encouraging growth and development of those that are fire-adapted such as pines, grasses and many wildflowers.

Prescribed burning also changes the structure and density of existing vegetation. For example, a prescribed fire may reduce the density of young sweetgum trees in a pine stand. This increases the amount of sunlight that reaches the ground, encouraging growth of grasses and herbaceous vegetation.

Improving Wildlife Habitat

Prescribed burning is one of the best tools for improving wildlife habitat in grasslands and pine-dominated forests. Shrubs and herbaceous plants experience a flush a new growth following a fire. This new growth is more nutritious and palatable to grazing and browsing wildlife than the "tough" vegetation that occurred before the burn. Many of the beneficial insects consumed by birds are more abundant following a fire. Fires promote flowers, seeds and fruit production which increases food for wildlife. Vegetative structure is an overlooked, but important component of habitat for wildlife and can be enhanced by prescribed burning. For many species of wildlife, periodic prescribed fire is crucial to their maintenance of their habitat.



Painted lady butterfly.
Photo by William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, forestryimages.org



Prescribed burning of sawgrass field.
Photo by Dale Wade, Rx Fire Doctor, forestryimages.org

FOREST HEALTH & MANAGEMENT

Prescribed burning can be used for a variety of purposes in the management of forests. Prescribed burning is commonly used to control a fungal disease called brownsport disease that sometimes occurs in longleaf pine seedlings. It may also contribute to control of root rot fungi. In harvested stands, prescribed burning can be used to prepare sites for reforestation and/or removal of logging debris. Prescribed fire can be used to control hardwoods and invasive exotics in pine stands.

Benefits of Prescribed Burning



Photo by Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, forestimages.org

BY JOHN ROBINETTE, BIOLOGIST PROGRAM MANAGER

HISTORY OF FIRE

Fire has shaped Louisiana's landscape for thousands of years. Native Americans set fires to reduce "rough" vegetation, improve hunting areas and create space for crops. Many fires were started by lightning strikes during spring and fall dry seasons. Even during periods of summer rain, lightning ignited fires in grass, dry leaves and at the base of trees. Across much of Louisiana, these fires maintained coastal prairie, longleaf pine and shortleaf pine/oak/hickory ecosystems. Wildlife was nourished by the diversity of plants that flourished in areas that were frequently burned. The short intervals between fires prevented large accumulations of fuel. This reduced the occurrence of intense fires that could damage or kill large expanses of trees.

During much of the 20th century, fire suppression and prevention activities decreased the frequency of fires and the acreage they covered. This brought about changes in forest ecosystems. Understory brush became denser, live and dead vegetation accumulated, and invasive plants gained a foothold. These conditions led to less diverse plant communities, loss of forested grassland habitats, loss of prime habitat for many species of wildlife and more damaging wildfires.

Recognition of the benefits of fire and the changes in Louisiana's forests that have occurred in the absence of fire over the last 50 years have prompted renewed interest in the utilization of fire as a forest and wildlife management tool. Prescribed burning (the application of fire in a controlled manner) is an important component of prairie management and restoration, longleaf pine establishment and management, and wildlife habitat management in grassland and pine ecosystems. As beneficial as prescribed burning is, we must understand and adapt to the challenges associated with prescribed burning in the modern world.



Tractor standing by on fireline during site preparation burn.
Photo by James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, forestimages.org

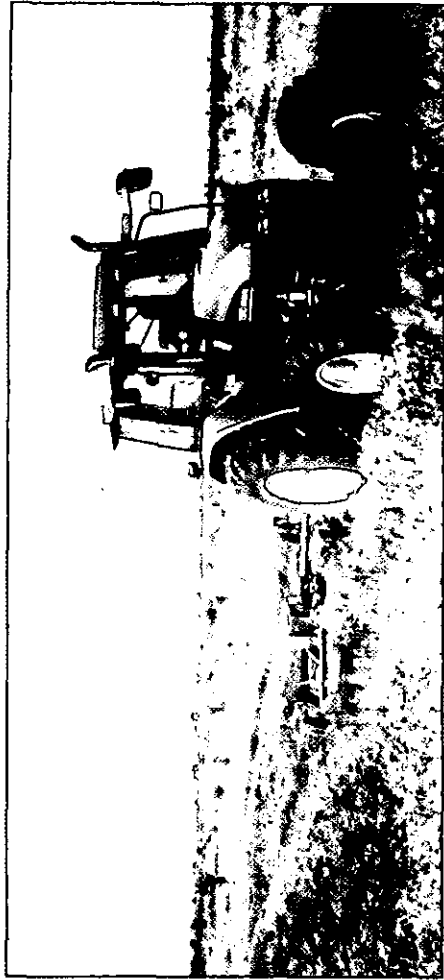
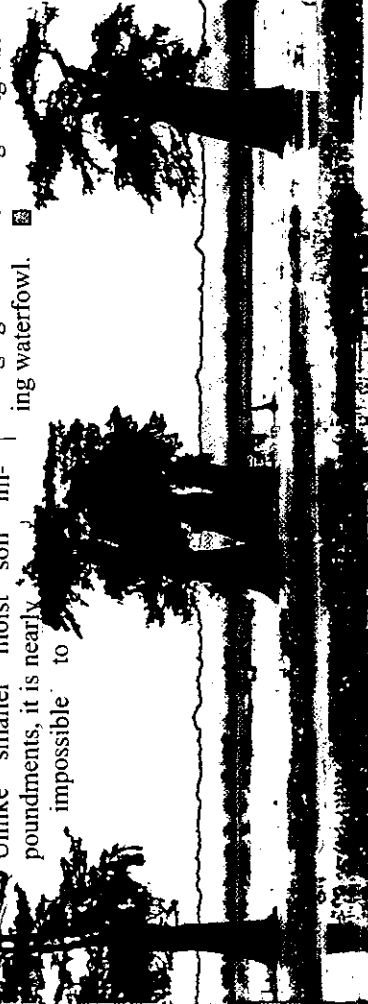


April burn with spot fire technique.
Photo by David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia, forestimages.org

there was no dewatering and it remained flooded throughout the summer. This likely helped to reduce undesirable species and enhance moist-soil plant production. Natural hydrology was altered at Catahoula Lake with the construction of dams in the local watershed, necessitating construction of a diversion canal to allow draining of the lake. Since 1972, water level management has attempted to duplicate the typical historic regime of draining the lake by the end of July each year and then flooding the lake bed in early to mid-November prior to opening the waterfowl hunting season. Under this management, moist-soil plant production is usually outstanding compared to many other areas. Thousands of acres of chufa and sprangletop cover the lake bed. In late September, the seeds can cover your ATV as you cross the lake bed. Thick stands of millet can be seen as you move closer to the center, and expanses of bull tongue occupy the wetter sites close to the conservation pool. There is often an incredible amount of food just waiting to be made available to migrating and wintering ducks. Using depth profiles and vegetative cover maps of Catahoula Lake, waterfowl managers working on conservation plans for the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture conservatively estimated about 1.5 million duck-energy-days of food are provided by the moist-soil vegetation. It is no wonder Catahoula Lake hosts so many ducks and provides such outstanding waterfowl hunting opportunity.

However, there are some disturbing changes in the vegetative community at Catahoula Lake that may be related to the water level management. Vegetation studies conducted in 2003 by scientists from the USGS National Wetlands Research Center found a significant increase in cocklebur and apparent reductions in sprangletop, wild millet and chufa, compared to what Dewey Wills found in the mid-1960s. Furthermore, woody shrubs, primarily swamp privet and water elm, are expanding further into the lake bed and reducing the area for more desirable moist-soil plant production, since little herbaceous vegetation grows under the swamp privet and water elm canopy. Analyses of aerial imagery showed a 20 percent increase in encroaching woody vegetation from 1987 to 2003.

Unlike smaller moist soil impoundments, it is nearly impossible to



Mechanical mowing of encroaching trees on Catahoula Lake.

LDWF File Photos



do a physical manipulation on the 20,000-acre lake bed to restore and revitalize moist-soil plant production. To address concerns about the changing vegetative community on Catahoula Lake, LDWF has initiated a 10-year management and research plan to evaluate changes in water level management, assess techniques for re-mowing/controlling woody vegetation, and monitor associated changes in moist soil vegetation. The goal is to identify management actions that best maintain or enhance moist soil plant production while controlling the spread of woody vegetation.

Moist-soil management, whether done on a very large-scale such as Catahoula Lake or on the more typical smaller scale by an individual landowner, is an effective way to produce good habitat for waterfowl. The following references can be used to aid landowners in managing their moist-soil habitats. These recommendations combined with a little local experience, such as that available from LDWF Private Lands Program biologists, can help establish excellent foraging habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Moist-Soil Management Guidelines for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region was published in July 2005 and is available on the internet at: <http://www.fws.gov/columbiawildlife/MoistSoilReport.pdf>

Wetland Management for Waterfowl: A Handbook in 2007 that contains extensive discussion and guidelines for moist-soil management, can be downloaded at: ftp-1c.sc.egov.usda.gov/MS/Waterfowl.pdf

Waterfowl Habitat Management Handbook for the Lower Mississippi River Valley is available at: <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p1864.pdf>

BY JOHN ROBINETTE, BIOLOGIST PROGRAM MANAGER

[Photo courtesy of USFWS]

Why We Hunt



Hunting is one of the most important elements in conservation of wildlife and its habitat. Hunting creates and shapes many of our wildlife habitat, conservation and management programs. Habitat management programs supported by hunters maintain habitats that support a diversity of both game and non-game animals. Hunting is a relationship with nature that is unique and brings people in contact with the natural world. Hunting exposes the basic truths of life, death and survival. It allows us to satisfy our need to remain a part of the natural world. The world is becoming more artificial every day with movies, video games and theme parks mocking the reality of nature. Many people today do not seem to understand how life works and have no idea where our food really comes from - to many it just appears at our local stores. Those who kill and eat what they harvest experience a sense of self-sufficiency that is rare in the modern world. Hunters embrace and

enjoy eating the game they have shot. The estimated weight of game meat that is consumed in the U.S. each year is 950 million pounds, which is the equivalent of 2 million beef cattle. Humans are programmed and designed to be hunters, it is part of our essence and has shaped our development.

Hunting serves both people and wildlife. Hunters are largely responsible for the creation of the 93 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System and over 86 million acres in state wildlife management areas across the nation. Acquisition and management of these lands is funded with hunting license fees (including federal duck stamps) and excise taxes on firearms and ammunition. The success of our wildlife conservation system is unprecedented. The very formation, structure and evolution of this system has arisen from hunting. License fees and excise taxes on firearms and ammunition provide \$2 billion a year in funding to state wildlife agencies and represent their largest source of funding.

Hunters are among the most effective conservationists. Hunters have been some of the strongest advocates of USDA programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program, which have provided incentives to farmers to develop and maintain millions of acres of wildlife habitat on private land. Private conservation organizations supported by hunters are responsible for improving or managing millions of acres of habitat, including Ducks Unlimited (10 million acres), National Wild Turkey Federation (2 million acres), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (3 million acres), Pheasants Forever (3 million acres), Quail Unlimited (400,000 acres), and the Ruffed Grouse Society (450,000 acres).

The reasons we hunt are forged deeply in human history. When you ask a hunter "why do you hunt?," frequently the answer

is related to what is achieved by hunting. However, this is often not a satisfactory answer. For example, someone might answer that they like the meat, or that they enjoy being outdoors. As most hunters know (but may reluctant to admit), it is usually a lot less expensive to buy meat at the store and there are many ways other than hunting to enjoy the outdoors. Yet, millions of people dedicate precious time and dollars to hunt. The real reasons someone hunts can be hard to articulate. This question has been asked for generations, and there might not be a simple answer. Hunting may be an innate characteristic of the predator within humans. One has to hunt to experience all the feelings and emotions involved. Even the most seasoned hunters may have difficulty answering this simple question, but take a moment and ask yourself, "why do I hunt?"

The enjoyment a person derives from hunting today may not be the same as when they first started. Next season may bring new challenges and a new perspective to hunting. Many hunters go through several stages as they mature:

- **Shooting Stage** - getting shots is the most important factor.
- **Limiting Out Stage** - getting a limit is an important motivation.
- **Trophy Stage** - bagging a trophy is the primary source of satisfaction.
- **Method Stage** - the method (bow, primitive weapon) is an important component of the hunt.
- **Sportsman Stage** - this is often the final stage where being outdoors and enjoying the total experience motivates the hunter.

There is nothing wrong about any of these hunting stages provided the hunter behaves in a safe and ethical manner.

Public perception of hunting and acceptance of hunting varies with the perceived motivations for hunting. So-called "trophy hunting" has the least amount of support among the non-hunting public. Yet, trophy hunting is not new. Prehistoric people drew pictures of their trophy kills on cave walls, and early Europeans adorned their castle walls with trophies. The taking of a trophy animal is sometimes viewed as a measure of the ability of the hunter, but we hunters should remember that any animal taken ethically is a trophy - regardless of size.

In nature, there are a limited number of mature trophy animals, and taking one is an achievement that should make any hunter proud. The pursuit of these animals in an ethical manner can elevate a hunter's standards, but doing so merely to claim superi-

ority to other hunters, win a contest, or get your name in a record book is killing wildlife for the wrong reasons. Recent developments in deer "ranching" such as stimulating antler growth with hormones, selective breeding of captive animals, and other methods that artificially produce "trophy" deer diminishes the value of all trophies and tarnishes the images of hunters in the public eye. There is value in keeping trophy records, and this information can help wildlife managers improve wildlife habitat for deer as well as other species of wildlife. For the hunter, displaying a trophy is a reminder of the hunt and a way to extend and appreciate the hunting experience. All animals are things of beauty and remembering them through photos and taxidermy is a way to memorialize the animal and the hunt.

Hunting has a long and honorable tradition and is an integral part of our system of wildlife and habitat conservation. The answer to the question of why we hunt is complex and not easily answered. Every hunter must answer that question for him/herself. Regardless of why each of us chooses to hunt, it is vitally important that we hunt in an ethical and responsible manner that respects the hunting tradition and the animals we pursue.

There would be no hunting if there were no wild animals, and it can be argued that there would be no wild animals if there were no hunters. ■

New Regulations

BY JOHN ROBINETTE, BIOLOGIST PROGRAM MANAGER



Photo by Richard Bartz, Wikimedia Commons

In Louisiana, feral hogs, coyotes and armadillos are classified as "outlaw quadrupeds," meaning they can be harvested throughout the year during daylight hours by properly licensed hunters (valid basic hunting license required) with any weapon.

To aid landowners in their efforts to control outlaw quadrupeds, as well as beaver and nutria, the law concerning the taking of these animals was amended in 2011 to remove the firearm restrictions in prior law. Currently, the law allows the taking of feral hogs, coyotes, armadillos, beavers and nutria on private land at night without a permit from LDWF under the following conditions:

1. Person(s), other than the actual landowner, while engaged in the nighttime shooting activity, must have written permission from the landowner in their possession, including the landowner's contact information. Hunting clubs that lease land from a corporate landowner must obtain permission from the corporate landowner. In this instance, the person(s) engaged in nighttime shooting must have written permission from the corporate landowner's authorized representative and the hunting club's president. Each authorized person must be specifically named in this letter of permission.
2. Nighttime shooting may only be conducted from ½ hour after official sunset on the last day of February to ½ hour after official sunset on the last day of August of the same year. In simple terms, persons shooting nuisance animals at night, such as hogs, from March 1 - Aug. 30 will be within the prescribed season.
3. A valid basic hunting license is required.
4. Any legal firearm legal for hunting may be used. The prior restriction limiting night shooting activities to .22 rimfire or shotguns with buckshot has been removed.
5. Spotlights, infrared or laser sighting devices, or other night vision devices may be used.
6. Noise suppressants or muzzle silencers are legal to be used by persons licensed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.
7. There is no limit on the number of hogs, coyotes, armadillos, beavers or nutria that can be taken at night during prescribed season.
8. Any person attempting to take hogs, coyotes, armadillos, beaver or nutria at night must notify the sheriff of the parish in which the property is located 24 hours prior to engaging in nighttime shooting.

Knowing your target and what lies beyond your target is critical, these basic rules are even more important to remember when engaged in nighttime shooting activities. Bears and feral hogs have similar body size and shape, so positive target identification is particularly important when shooting at night in areas where bears occur. ■



Photo by Silu Renka, Flickr.com

Cooked Wild Game Dinner (venison).



Photo by Matt Reinbold, Flickr.com

Remembering that hunting experience!

6

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2012-2013 Reef Fish Commercial Seasons
January 5, 2012

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and R.S. 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The commercial fishing seasons for reef fish as listed in LAC 76:VII.335, Reef Fish - Harvest Regulations continue to remain open as of January 1 of each year unless otherwise provided for in LAC 76:VII.335 and LAC 76:VII.337, or as a result of actions by the Secretary as authorized below. These commercial fishing seasons include closed seasons for some species and species groups as listed in LAC 76:VII.335 and in LAC 76:VII.337, including prohibition on harvest of goliath and Nassau groupers.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close the season for the commercial harvest of any species or group of species of the fishes listed in LAC 76:VII.335, Reef Fish - Harvest Regulations, in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of

NMFS that the applicable commercial quota has been harvested in the Gulf of Mexico, and if he is requested by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the State of Louisiana enact compatible regulations in Louisiana state waters.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify the commercial seasons described here in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by NMFS that the season dates for the commercial harvest of these fish species in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico as set out herein have been modified, and that NMFS requests that the season be modified in Louisiana state waters, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Such authority shall extend through January 31, 2013.

Effective with seasonal closures under this Emergency Rule, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sell, or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade, or sell the affected species of fish, whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters. Also effective with these closures, no person shall possess the affected species of fish in excess of a daily bag limit, which may only be in possession during the open recreational season by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish by a commercial dealer if legally

taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing such fish taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman

1

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2012-2013 Recreational Reef Fish Seasons
January 5, 2012

The reef fish fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

Recreational season rules have been established for red snapper and greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico and in Louisiana state waters and both fisheries operate under recreational quotas. If the quota is projected to be reached, NMFS is required by law to close the season to restrain fishing within the established quota for the species. In conjunction with a recreational quota, a closed season has been established in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico for greater amberjack from June 1 through July 31 of each year.

Adoption of compatible regulations for Louisiana state waters

where feasible enhances effectiveness and enforceability of the regulations already in place for reef fishes harvested in the EEZ off of Louisiana. Unforeseen circumstances may occur which may lead to modification of the recreational seasons to restrain the fisheries within the recreational quota or to allow additional harvest, requiring a modification in established regulations.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to promulgate seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25) (a) and R.S. 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close the season for the recreational harvest of red snapper or greater amberjack in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the applicable recreational quota has been harvested or is projected to be harvested in the Gulf of Mexico and the recreational season closed in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and if he is requested by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the State of Louisiana enact compatible regulations in Louisiana state waters.

The Commission further declares that the recreational season for the harvest of greater amberjack shall be closed from June 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify the recreational season currently established in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by NMFS that the season dates for the recreational harvest of red snapper or greater amberjack in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico as set out herein have been modified, and that NMFS requests that the season be modified in Louisiana state waters, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Such authority shall extend through January 31, 2013.

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2012-13 Commercial King Mackerel Season
January 5, 2012

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to establish seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following season for the commercial harvest of king mackerel in Louisiana state waters:

The commercial season for king mackerel in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2012 and remain open until the allotted portion of the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested.

The Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or is

projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2013, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2013-14 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

The Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open additional commercial king mackerel seasons in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened such additional seasons and to close such seasons when he is informed that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Effective with seasonal closures under this rule, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sell, or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade, or sell king mackerel, whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters. Also effective with this closure, no person shall possess king mackerel in excess of a daily bag limit, which may only be in possession during the open recreational season by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish by a commercial dealer if legally taken prior to the closure providing that

all commercial dealers possessing such fish taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Gag Grouper Recreational Season Closure
January 5, 2012

The reef fish fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. An interim rule and a final temporary rule were established by NMFS closing the recreational gag grouper season during much of 2011, allowing for a recreational season from September 16, 2011 through November 15, 2011, in order to reduce overfishing on gag grouper. The NMFS temporary rule was effective until November 30, 2011 and has subsequently been extended to June 2, 2012. The NMFS temporary rule is expected to remain in place while a proposed rule, published November 2, 2011, containing a rebuilding plan for gag grouper through Amendment 32 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico is in a public comment period. NMFS and the Gulf Council have requested consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to

have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters to coincide with the regulation set forth by NMFS, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

The recreational season for the harvest of gag grouper in Louisiana state waters has previously been closed at 11:59 p.m. November 15, 2011 and remains closed until further notice.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The recreational fishery for the harvest of gag grouper, previously closed at 11:59 p.m. on November 15, 2011, will remain closed in Louisiana waters, and shall remain closed until further notice. Effective with this closure, no person shall recreationally harvest or possess gag grouper whether within or without Louisiana waters.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open the recreational season when notified by NOAA Fisheries that the recreational season for the harvest of gag grouper will open in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to

the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Such authority shall extend through January 31, 2013.

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Closure
January 5, 2012

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:6.1, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby closes all commercial fishing, effective immediately January 5, 2012 in the following areas:

Those waters north of 28 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from the eastern shore of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River eastward to a line beginning at 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 23 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and those waters north of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 20 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude, and those waters north of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to 89 degrees 15

minutes 25 seconds west longitude and southeastward along a line beginning at 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, and those waters west of the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 28 degrees 59 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, 2) 28 degrees 58 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 10 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 3) 28 degrees 59 minutes 01 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, and those waters east of the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River and south of 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude eastward to a line beginning at 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 07 minutes 20 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 08 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and those waters adjacent to but not including Northeast Pass and Southeast Pass of the Mississippi River and bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 08 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 04 minutes 20 seconds

west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 04 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 05 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, and those waters south and west of Pass a Loutre of the Mississippi River and east of 89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 25 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 03 minutes 30 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 25 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude, and those waters south of North Pass of the Mississippi River bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 12 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 01 minutes 05 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island

bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, and those state inside waters in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude.

Recreational fishing is open in all state inside and outside territorial waters, except in the following areas, where only recreational angling and charter boat angling is allowed: those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, and those state inside waters

in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude.

The Deepwater Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life.

The Commission hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open, close, reopen-reclose, broaden or otherwise modify the areas closed and opened to fishing if biological, environmental and technical data indicate the need to do so, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish rules and regulations which require the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems for use by a vessel taking oysters for commercial purposes under the authority of the Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit. Data collected through this system will enable the Department to better manage the public oyster resource and allow the Department to assess where reef building efforts need to be focused increasing accessibility to the industry over time.

TITLE 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

Chapter 5. Oysters

525. Commercial Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit

A – D ...

E. Operations

1. Permits are non-transferable and only the vessel listed on the permit can be used with the permit and only one vessel is allowed per permit. The original valid permit must be onboard at all times while operating under the permit.

2. Permits cannot be assigned or transferred or used by any other vessel than the one to which permit was issued.

3. Vessels engaged in an activity for which this permit is required must have onboard the vessel the valid original permit and shall show the permit upon demand to a duly authorized agent of the Department.

4. The Secretary shall have the authority to require the use of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) for use by a vessel taking oysters for commercial purposes under the authority of the oyster seed ground vessel permit in accordance with R.S. 56:433.1. All equipment, installation, and service costs associated with this requirement shall be paid for by the Department. The Secretary shall review this requirement annually for management needs and funding availability and may, at his sole discretion, make the determination to continue the requirement.

a. All vessels operating under the authority of the oyster seed ground vessel permit will be required to have a VMS on board which is fully operable and recording data while vessel is fishing on public oyster seed grounds.

i. In instances where funding is limited, the Secretary may choose a sub-sample of vessels through use of a random selection process, geographic area, and / or trip ticket landings data.

b. Owners of vessels requiring the use of VMS will be notified of such requirement by certified mail at the address listed on their permit.

c. Notwithstanding applicable requirements pursuant to provisions in LAC 76:VII.371, any vessel required to use VMS under this provision must use the VMS system provided by the Department,

d. Presumption. If a VMS unit fails to record or transmit the required signal of a vessel's position (identified by the indicator light), the vessel shall be deemed to have incurred a VMS violation, for as long as the unit fails to record or transmit a signal, unless a preponderance of evidence shows that the failure to transmit was due to an unavoidable malfunction, or disruption of the transmission that occurred while the vessel was declared out of

the fishery, as applicable, or was not at sea. If the indicator light is on, then the unit is presumed to be functioning properly; however, if the indicator light is off then the unit is presumed to not be recording or transmitting. The permit holder shall have an affirmative duty to immediately notify the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) if the VMS fails to record or transmit the required signal or if the indicator light indicates such a failure.

e. Replacement. If the indicator light on the VMS unit is not working, then upon notification to LDWF, a new unit shall be re-installed in no later than 7 days. During the period without a functional VMS unit, it is the affirmative duty of the permit holder to report daily to LDWF, prior to departure, the vessel's anticipated fishing location and estimated time on water, and upon return, the vessel's actual fishing location and time on water.

f. Access. All vessel owners shall allow the LDWF, and their authorized wildlife enforcement agents or designees access to the vessel's VMS unit and data, if applicable, and location data obtained from its VMS unit, if required, at the time of or after its transmission to the vendor or receiver, as the case may be.

g. Tampering. Tampering with a VMS, a VMS unit, or a VMS signal, is prohibited. Tampering includes any activity that is likely to affect the unit's ability to operate properly, signal, or accurately compute the vessel's position fix.

h. Violation. Failure to abide by any regulation set forth by this section regarding the use or operation of a VMS by a vessel taking oysters for commercial purposes under the authority of the oyster seed ground vessel permit, shall be a violation of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and shall result in immediate revocation of the permit governed herein and shall constitute a class 1 violation under the authority of R.S. 56:23. All fish taken or possessed by a person in violation of these rules shall be deemed illegally taken and possessed. The

provisions of this Section do not exempt any person from any other laws, rules, regulation. and license requirements for this or other jurisdictions.

F. - G. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:610(L), R.S. 56:6, R.S. 56:23, and R.S. 56:433.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 34:2681 (December 2008), amended LR .

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

371. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Requirements

A. The following provision regarding VMS shall be applicable to all provisions of law requiring the use of VMS except where required by R.S. 56:433.1 and LAC 76: VII.525.

1. The vessel must have onboard a fully operational and approved VMS Device. Approved devices are those devices approved by NOAA Fisheries Service or the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish fishery and which meet the minimum performance criteria specified in paragraph 2 of this subsection. In the event that a VMS device is removed from the list of approved devices, vessel owners who installed an approved VMS prior to approval of any revised list will be considered in compliance with requirements of this paragraph, unless otherwise notified by the LDWF.

2. Minimum VMS performance criteria: Basic required features of the VMS are as follows:

a. The VMS shall be satellite-based and tamper proof, i.e., shall not permit the input of false positions; furthermore, satellite selection must be automatic to provide an optimal fix and shall not be capable of being manually overridden.

b. The VMS shall be fully automatic and operational at all times, regardless of weather and environmental conditions.

c. The VMS shall be fully operable and capable of tracking the vessel in all of Louisiana coastal waters and throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

d. The VMS shall be capable of transmitting and storing information including vessel identification, date, time and latitude/longitude.

e. The VMS unit shall make all required transmissions to a designated and approved VMS vendor who shall be responsible for monitoring the vessel and reporting information to the LDWF.

f. The VMS shall provide accurate position transmissions every half-hour, except for those vessels operating solely under the Out-of-State Landing Permit mentioned in paragraph 3 that require accurate position transmissions every hour, every day of the year, during required monitoring period. In addition, the VMS shall allow polling of individual vessels or any set of vessels at any time and permit those monitoring the vessel to receive position reports in real time. For the purposes of this specification, real time shall constitute data that reflect a delay of 15 minutes or less between the displayed information and the vessel's actual position.

g. The VMS vendor shall be capable of transmitting position data to a LDWF designated computer system via a modem at a minimum speed of 9600 baud.

Transmission shall be in a file format acceptable to the LDWF. Such transmission must be made at any time upon demand of the LDWF.

h. The VMS vendor shall be capable of archiving vessel position histories for a minimum of three (3) months, as transmitted by the VMS unit, and provide transmissions to the LDWF of specified portions of archived data in response to LDWF requests in a variety of media (tape, compact disc, etc.) as specified by the LDWF.

3. Operating requirements: Except as provided in Paragraph 4 (Power Down Exemption) of this Subsection, or unless otherwise required by law, all required VMS units must transmit a signal indicating the vessel's accurate position at least every half hour, 24 hours a day, throughout the year. However, those vessels operating solely under the Out-of-State Landing Permit shall transmit a signal indicating the vessel's accurate position at least every hour, 24 hours a day throughout the year.

4. Power Down exemption: Any vessel required to have on board a fully operational VMS unit at all times, as specified in Paragraph 3 of this Subsection, is exempt from this requirement provided:

a. The vessel will be continuously out of the water for more than 72 consecutive hours; and

b. A valid letter of exemption obtained pursuant to Subparagraph 5.a. of the Subsection has been issued to the vessel and is on board the vessel is in compliance with all conditions and requirements of said letter.

A. 5. - 11. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:424, R.S. 56:424.1, R.S. 56:495.1, R.S. 56:497.1, and R.S. 56:433.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 34:887 (May 2008), amended LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Mr. Jason Froeba, Office of Fisheries, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Thursday, March 1, 2012.

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman

APPENDIX A

6/7/01

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN
(Pursuant to Article IV of the Bylaws)

- I. The election procedure shall be by roll call vote.
- II. Election of Chairman
 - A. Chair entertains nominations for chairman
 - any number may be nominated.
 - no second required for nominations.
 - chairman may not serve succeeding terms.
 - B. When it appears that no further nominations are forthcoming, the chair declares nominations closed.
 - C. When nominations are closed, the chair will call for votes for each of the persons nominated - in the order of nomination. If there is only one nominee, the chair declares election by acclamation.
 - D. When any nominee receives a majority vote of the members present, then voting ceases and he is declared chairman.
 - E. In the event that there are more than two nominees for chairman and no nominee receives a majority vote of those present, then the balloting shall be repeated as many times as necessary until one candidate obtains a majority vote. If second and subsequent balloting is required, all nominees are kept on the ballot.
 - F. Outgoing chairman shall continue to preside over election of vice-chairman and until adjournment.
- III. Election of Vice-Chairman

When a chairman is declared, then the Commission proceeds to elect a vice-chairman using the same procedure set out above for chairman. The vice-chairman can succeed himself.
- IV. POINTS OF ORDER - ALL OBJECTIONS, QUESTIONS OR POINTS OF ORDER CONCERNING THE ABOVE PROCEDURE OR THE ELECTION **MUST** BE MADE PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT OF THIS MEETING. IF NOT MADE PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT, THEY ARE WAIVED.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2012						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		